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Part XIII
Development Account

Section 35
Development Account

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* A summary of the approved programme budget will be issued as A/70/6/Add.1.

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Overview

Table 35.1 **Financial resources**

(United States dollars)

Approved resources for 2014-2015[a]	28 398 800
Proposal by the Secretary-General for 2016-2017[a]	28 398 800

[a] At 2014-2015 revised rates.

Overall orientation

35.1 Section 35 comprises the resource requirements related to the Development Account. The activities programmed under the section respond to the objectives and related capacity development expected accomplishments of various programmes of the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6/Rev.1) that implement Development Account projects.

35.2 Pursuant to the proposal made by the Secretary-General in his report entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950), the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/12 B, decided, inter alia, to establish a development account in the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. In its resolution 52/221 A, the Assembly approved an appropriation of $13,065,000 for the Development Account under section 34 of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

35.3 In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/235, in which the Assembly requested a detailed report on the sustainability of the Development Account, the modalities of its implementation, the specific purposes and the associated performance criteria for the use of resources, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the operation of the Development Account (A/53/945). Having considered that report and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/7/Add.12), the Assembly, in its resolution 54/15, decided, inter alia, to establish a special multi-year account for supplementary development activities based on the programmes of the approved medium-term plan. Over the past nine bienniums (1998-1999, 2000-2001, 2002-2003, 2004-2005, 2006-2007, 2008-2009, 2010-2011, 2012-2013 and 2014-2015), the Assembly has approved 315 projects for funding through the Development Account.

35.4 In its resolution 60/246, the General Assembly decided that the Development Account would be recosted for the biennium 2006-2007. That exercise led to an increase of $889,100 at the stage of the initial appropriation for that biennium. During the preparation of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, the Account was again recosted, resulting in a further increase of $26,800. By its resolution 61/252, section IV, paragraph 5, the Assembly decided to appropriate the amount of $2.5 million for the Development Account as an immediate exceptional measure aimed at addressing the lack of transfer of resources to the Account since its inception. Furthermore, by its resolution 62/235 A, paragraph 2 (d), the Assembly decided to increase the provision under section 34, Development Account, by the amount of $5 million for the biennium 2006-2007. By its resolution 62/238, section VIII, paragraph 11, the Assembly decided to appropriate $2.5 million for the Account for the biennium 2008-2009. By its resolution 64/243, part XIII, paragraph 140, the Assembly decided to appropriate an additional amount of $5 million for the Account for the biennium 2010-2011. For the biennium 2012-2013, the Assembly, in its resolution 66/248 A, approved a total appropriation under the Account of $29,243,200 and by its resolution 68/248, the Assembly approved a total appropriation under the Account for the biennium 2014-2015 of $28,398,800.

35.5 The proposals on the use of these resources during the biennium 2016-2017 for the tenth tranche, detailed in the annex to the present fascicle, are based on the procedures and arrangements for the use of the Development Account approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 53/220 A, 53/220 B, 54/15, 54/249, 56/237, 60/246, 61/252, 62/236, 62/237, 62/238, 64/243, 64/244, 66/248 and 68/248.

35.6 The objective of the Development Account is to fund capacity development projects in the priority areas of the United Nations development agenda that benefit developing countries, in response to expressed needs and demands, as well as recommendations and decisions made in the intergovernmental processes and relevant governing bodies. The projects are implemented by 10 entities of the United Nations Secretariat, namely, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, all five regional commissions, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

35.7 For the 10 implementing entities of the Secretariat, the Development Account is considered a key funding facility that promotes access by developing Member States to the vast range of normative skills, technical expertise and analytical products which reside in those entities, to further support countries in their development efforts. The Account encourages close collaboration between the entities, which ensures ongoing complementarity and synergies with interrelated activities, including close coordination with the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations country team when implementing projects with a national focus.

35.8 The overall theme of the tenth tranche of the Development Account, which was endorsed by the Development Account Steering Committee on 25 June 2014 and approved by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the Account's programme manager, is "Supporting Member States in implementing the post-2015 development agenda: strengthening statistics and data, evidence-based policies and accountability". The report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (A/68/970), the Assembly's decision that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in that report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda (resolution 68/309), the Secretary-General's synthesis report (A/69/700) and the decisions of the Assembly on the post-2015 development agenda during its sixty-ninth session will all serve as the main references that will drive the programming of the projects.

35.9 The post-2015 development agenda emphasizes the importance of strengthening capacity in the area of statistics and data, with reliable and sound statistics as a prerequisite for formulating evidence-based policies and making evidence-based decisions. National statistical systems, as the foundation for national official statistics, need to be strengthened, and the data gaps identified and appropriately addressed. In this regard, the Development Account Steering Committee considered that the tenth tranche of the Account provides an opportunity for the United Nations, long recognized as the authority in setting international statistical standards and defining statistical methodologies, to gear up to address this critical issue. Based on the Committee's full recommendation, the programme manager of the Account decided to include a dedicated programme on statistics and data under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, with a value of $10.0 million. This new and innovative programme approach brings together the 10 implementing entities of the Secretariat, capitalizing on their individual technical expertise and comparative advantages with a common objective to help developing countries face the data challenges of the post-2015 development agenda, including the strengthening of national statistical systems.

35.10 The programme will be implemented as a unified and structured whole, rather than an amalgamation of individual projects/proposals, and will build on the ongoing dialogues, panels,

debates and intergovernmental discussions that will shape and finalize the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. It will be demand-driven and country-owned, and intends to leverage other statistical programmes and funding initiatives in order to achieve a higher multiplier effect. It will actively seek engagement, alignment and coherence with statistical capacity development programmes of other United Nations entities in order for the United Nations system to "deliver as one", reflecting the joint responsibility of all United Nations agencies to provide support to countries in establishing an effective and sustainable information infrastructure.

35.11 The remaining funds under the tenth tranche, valued at $18.4 million, have been programmed around the Development Account theme and allocated among the entities in line with the past distributions of the Account, as endorsed by the Steering Committee. The concept proposals, defined in the proposed programme budget, place strong emphasis on evidence-based policies within the specific areas of expertise of the implementing entities. Many of these proposals advance efforts that are already ongoing, either under earlier Development Account initiatives or extrabudgetary resources and that bring the countries closer to adopt and implement strategies, plans and policies which contribute to a sustainable development approach.

35.12 The proposed programme and projects comply with the criteria established by the General Assembly since the inception of the Development Account. The implementing entities are expected to use human and technical capacities within developing countries, to the extent possible, in order to maximize knowledge transfer and develop national skills and capacity, including through South-South cooperation. The projects, which are expected to be demand-driven, build on the comparative advantage of the implementing entities to fit within the strategic direction given to the entity by Member States. As well, the implementing entities are expected to work closely together and build on synergies with other activities within and outside the United Nations system.

35.13 The list of proposed projects was endorsed by the Development Account Steering Committee at its meeting on 5 January 2015 and approved by the programme manager on 9 January 2015 for submission to the General Assembly for its consideration.

35.14 Since its establishment, the Development Account has funded a total of 315 projects, of which 111 remain active and/or require programme management oversight, spanning tranches 7 through 9 (not including the 33 concept notes of the present fascicle). In accordance with the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account (A/55/913) and with General Assembly resolution 56/237, the Account was established as a multi-year account, with the fund balances being reprogrammed. To date, the programme manager has called for two reprogramming exercises that draw on residual balances from several tranches, resulting in 25 new projects which follow the same stringent selection criteria as those used for the proposed programme budgets. Twelve projects were added to the seventh tranche and 13 to the ninth tranche.

35.15 The continuing growth of the Development Account necessitated the streamlining of the internal processes related to the review and endorsement of the project concept notes and more detailed project proposals. The Account architecture, which was endorsed by the Steering Committee on 25 June 2014 and subsequently approved by the programme manager, places equal responsibility on the focal points for the Account within the implementing entities to ensure high quality proposals, which are vetted through an internal quality review process before submission to the Account's management team and the Development Account Quality Assurance Group. The associate programme officer post approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/246 in support of the implementation of the projects under the Account has significantly contributed to accelerating the programming of projects by augmenting the limited staff resources devoted to the day to day management of the Account. It should be noted that 40 of the 46 projects of the ninth tranche were approved and allotted by December 2014 as compared to 15 of the 52 projects

approved at the end of the first year of the eighth tranche. Such visible improvement in the front end of the programming process will provide up to four years for the entities to implement the projects, resulting in fewer exceptional extensions beyond the four-year cycle and improved implementation rates.

35.16 The management of the Development Account also involves continued monitoring and oversight, including the review of annual progress reports, final progress reports and mandatory project evaluations. The Account team benefited from the services of a dedicated associate evaluation officer funded through the junior professional officer programme. The associate evaluation officer provided assistance in the development and launch of an evaluation process, including the issuance of evaluation guidelines that are adhered to by the entities in the conduct of their external evaluations. During the two years that support was provided by the evaluation officer, 81 project evaluations were thoroughly analysed and the lessons learned were distilled in an internal database that is being drawn upon in the programming cycle of new projects for the tenth tranche. Evaluations from 84 projects from the seventh and eighth tranches will be submitted by March 2016. They will need to be reviewed and the lessons learned distilled for inclusion in the next progress report to the General Assembly and for improving the programming of the eleventh tranche. New means will now be required to continue to carry out the monitoring and evaluation functions, without the support provided by the dedicated evaluation officer.

35.17 Given the equal importance of all facets of Development Account management, which includes programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, the programme manager will need to address the challenge of maintaining the strong improvements in programming that have been achieved, while devoting staff resources to the monitoring and evaluation functions to help ensure the timely execution of projects, including through the review of delays in implementation and reprogramming of funds for new projects without a dedicated evaluation officer.

35.18 The present fascicle should be read in conjunction with the ninth progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account.

Overview of resources

35.19 The overall resources proposed for the biennium 2016-2017 for section 35 amount to $28,398,800, which is the same amount as that proposed for the biennium 2014-2015.

35.20 Table 35.2 presents the resource requirements related to the tenth tranche of projects proposed under section 35.

Table 35.2 **Financial resources**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Regular budget

			Resource changes								
Component	*2012-2013 expenditure*	*2014-2015 appropriation*	*Technical adjustment (non-recurrent, biennial provisions of posts)*	*New mandates and inter-component changes*	*In line with resolution 69/264*	*Efficiencies in line with resolution 69/264*	*Total resource change*	*Percentage*	*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2016-2017 estimate*
Development Account	29 243.2	28 398.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	28 398.8	–	28 398.8

35.21 A summary of resource requirements for the tenth tranche of projects by object of expenditure is presented in table 35.3.

Table 35.3 **Summary of resource requirements by object of expenditure (before recosting)**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2016-2017
Other staff costs	1 158 100
Consultants	8 293 200
Experts	1 047 000
Travel of staff	5 307 100
Contractual services	2 023 000
General operating expenses	498 600
Furniture and equipment	231 500
Seminars and workshops	9 840 300
Total	**28 398 800**

Annex I

Projects proposed for funding from the Development Account during the biennium 2016-2017

A. Programme for statistics and data

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ($10,000,000)

Background

1. The Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals concluded its work on 19 July 2014 and submitted its report on sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action by the General Assembly (A/68/970). In its resolution 68/309 the Assembly decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing fully that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly.

2. In its proposal, the Open Working Group recognized that it will be important to improve the availability of and access to data and statistics to provide support for the monitoring of the implementation of the sustainable development goals. Member States will need to ensure that national capacities and mechanisms exist to measure, monitor and report on their achievements in a sustainable manner. Thus, a major priority for the United Nations will be to provide assistance to countries in strengthening national statistical systems that in turn form the basis for local, national, regional and global reporting. This effort will entail defining new statistical methodologies, approaches, tools and techniques.

3. The expected demand for data in terms of scope, disaggregation, timeliness and quality, which will increase significantly in the post-2015 era, must be assessed against the current availability of data and the capacities of countries to produce national statistics and data. For example, approximately 50 per cent of countries do not produce vital statistics out of civil registrations. The current reporting on Millennium Development Goals is largely the result of global monitoring efforts by international agencies based on estimates and is not the result of national reporting. The new data requirements to measure and report on the proposed sustainable development goals and targets will pose difficulties for even the most advanced national statistical systems.

4. In August 2014 the Secretary-General established the Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development to provide advice on the ways to close the data gaps and strengthen national statistical capacities. In its report the Advisory Group emphasized that data is a crucial pillar for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, as it is the basis for evidence-based decision-making and accountability, and recommended that the United Nations take strong leadership in the area. A new funding stream for statistical capacity development

should be established, mobilizing domestic and external resources and strengthening the role of national statistical offices in their coordination function. The report called for a proposal to improve existing arrangements for fostering capacity development and technology transfer, which should include upgrading the national strategies for the development of statistics to do better at coordinated and long-term planning, and in identifying sound investments.

5. In paragraph 143 of his synthesis report on the post-2015 sustainable development goals (A/69/700) the Secretary-General recommended that under the auspices of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, a comprehensive programme of action on data be established. This effort includes the building of a global consensus, applicable principles and standards for data, a web of data innovation networks to advance innovation and analysis, a new innovative financing stream to provide support for national data capacities and a global data partnership to promote leadership and governance. In particular, the synthesis report highlights that enhanced national and international statistical capacities, rigorous indicators, reliable and timely data sets, new and non-traditional data sources and broader and systematic disaggregation to reveal inequities will all be fundamental for implementing the new agenda.

6. Since its inception, the Development Account has had a strong focus on statistics, with more than 40 projects implemented that provided support for the transfer of knowledge on statistical methodologies, tools and techniques. The proposed programme on statistics and data under the tenth tranche is a new and innovative approach that brings the 10 implementing entities of the Secretariat together, capitalizing on their individual technical expertise and comparative advantages, with a common objective to help developing countries face the data challenges of the new development agenda. The programme will be implemented as a unified and structured whole, rather than an amalgamation of individual projects and proposals, and will build on the ongoing dialogues, panels, debates and intergovernmental discussions that will shape and finalize the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. It will be further developed and amplified as the intergovernmental discussions and negotiations evolve, during 2015, with the intention to launch activities under the programme immediately in January 2016, upon approval of the General Assembly.

7. The programme explicitly responds to two targets formulated by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly under goal 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development), under the heading "Data, monitoring and accountability" of the sustainable development goals, as presented:

   (a) *Target 17.18*: by 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;

   (b) *Target 17.19*: by 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

Vision and key principles of the programme

8. The Secretary-General has called upon the United Nations system to be "fit for purpose" to effectively contribute to the implementation of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. He has asked the system to reflect on how to deliver differently, focusing on a culture of collaboration and collective accountability to deliver results, and country-level impact based on national strategies and priorities.

9. Under the proposed programme on statistics and data, the 10 implementing entities will work closely together to strengthen the capacities of national statistical systems in developing countries to be better able to respond to the increased demands for data resulting from the anticipated adoption of the sustainable development goals in a systematic and strategic way. The implementing entities are long-standing and trusted partners of national statistical offices and national statistical systems, and possess considerable technical expertise and experience, which places them in a unique position to provide assistance to countries in this challenge. The programme will provide guidance on improvements required to strengthen the institutional settings and arrangements within the national statistical offices, including the related statistical business processes. Such guidance will then need to be adapted to the specificities of each country's current official statistical arrangements. The programme will also address data gaps in specific thematic areas, combining a cross-cutting approach with sector-specific demands, as identified by Member States.

10. The key fundamental principles which will guide the development and implementation of the Development Account programme on statistics and data have been agreed upon by the Development Account Steering Committee, as follows:

(a) *Respond to policy needs for data*. The global policy framework is provided by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288), the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (A/68/970) and the future directions of the Assembly deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda. Relevant regional and national policy frameworks should also be considered, as appropriate;

(b) *Strengthen national statistical capacity*. The underlying objective of the programme is to strengthen national statistical systems in order to respond to the overall data requirements for the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, ensuring accurate and timely national, local and regional statistics for sustainable development based on the fundamental principles of official statistics;

(c) *Be demand driven and country-owned*. The programme should build on country demand and reflect the needs and priorities of developing Member States, while creating a solid basis;

(d) *Build on comparative advantages of and close cooperation between the Development Account implementing entities*. The programme should be executed in close coordination and cooperation between the implementing entities of the Account, drawing on their common capacities, unique strengths in statistics and ability to adapt to the challenge ahead;

(e) *Align and be coherent with programmes of others*. The programme should actively seek engagement, alignment and coherence with statistical capacity development programmes of other United Nations entities in order for the United Nations system to "deliver as one", reflecting the joint responsibility of all United Nations agencies to provide support to countries in establishing an effective and sustainable information infrastructure. In the context of the "fit for purpose" initiative, many United Nations agencies have highlighted statistics and data as one of the most critical issues to address;

(f) *Encourage external participation and funding*. The programme should encourage coordination and involvement of non-United Nations agencies and organizations, which are welcome to join the programme either through implementation of parallel initiatives or through provision of additional funding to complement the Development Account programme. Through its direct work with national statistical offices, the programme should be used as a vehicle to mobilize voluntary funds to augment initiatives following a comprehensive approach, which strives for long-term effectiveness of efforts;

(g) *Build on existing initiatives*. The programme should build on existing and/or ongoing capacity development initiatives of the implementing entities, where feasible;

(h) *Link to evidence-based policymaking and accountability*. Statistics and data are the prerequisite for evidence-based policies and for accountability. The programme and its components need to explicitly highlight those links. If there is no national policy interest in specific areas and no accountability mechanism, the activities will have limited impact and sustainability;

(i) *Adapt to the needs of the countries and the evolving agenda*. The programme will maintain flexibility to adapt to the specific needs of the countries as the statistics agenda evolves in line with decisions of the General Assembly on the sustainable development goals. The programme will also be guided by future decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission and other statistical bodies of the United Nations.

Substantive focus of the programme

11. The programme will address the institutional arrangements needed in countries and will focus in particular on the establishment, or strengthening, of national statistical systems for measurement and monitoring of the sustainable development goals, helping to adapt national strategies for the development of statistics or similar plans. The programme will provide support for national discussions at the policy level on priorities for monitoring the sustainable development goals and aim, where possible, at developing national strategies based on national priorities, capacities and gaps, recognizing that Governments are driving the implementation of the goals and their monitoring. The local, regional and global dimensions of monitoring, reporting and comparability will be included, as appropriate. The programme will provide support to national statistical systems in the implementation of the indicator and monitoring framework for sustainable development goals and associated indicators. The modernization of statistical systems will be another major element of the programme, which will address, where appropriate, the possible adoption of recommendations on a data revolution and the use of new technologies and big data, including the use of geospatial data. These elements build on the special relationship and the comparative and absolute advantage of the Secretariat's implementing entities to provide support and strategic advice to national statistical offices on reporting and monitoring of the sustainable development goals. These cross-cutting programme elements will enable national statistical offices to better address new statistical initiatives on sustainable development goals data emanating from various sources and, hence, constitute an effective leveraging of the comparatively small resources under the programme. This approach is also based on the leadership role of the Secretariat in formulating the response and strategy for data collection and monitoring for the goals.

12. A further focus of the programme will be to address specific data gaps for monitoring the sustainable development goals (sectoral and emerging issues) that will require conceptual and methodological development, leveraging the leadership of the implementing entities in specific sectoral/thematic areas. This focus will not constitute isolated efforts affecting only a very small part of the sustainable development goals agenda; rather, it will involve a cohesive effort to set statistical methodologies and standards, which could be drawn upon when building national capacities for statistics and data. The thematic/sectoral components will be further defined and established through both the ongoing discussions of the implementing entities and the demand expressed by Member States. Overall, the programme should build on the core capacities of the entities, in particular in the area of methodological work, and then upscale them through macroapproaches and collective approaches.

13. The programme will have an e-learning component that complements the physical activities at the national, local, regional and global levels in order to ensure a wider multiplier effect and provide continuous training to a much broader audience.

14. More specifically, the following levels of intervention can be identified: (a) institutional environment; (b) statistical production processes; (c) specific thematic areas; and (d) leveraging, partnerships and coordination.

Addressing the institutional environment

15. The legal and institutional arrangements, the organizational arrangements within the national statistical system, the relationship with national policymakers, as well as human resources (including training and staff retention), are some elements that constitute the environment or conditions under which national statistical systems operate. These interrelated conditions determine, to a large degree, the potential and ability of statistical systems to deliver statistical outputs and, in particular, the indicators required for the monitoring of the sustainable development goals and targets. Many countries have limited funds to address the gaps and fundraising will be essential.

Improving statistical production processes

16. The improvement of existing statistical production processes represents another level of intervention. The focus of this effort is described below.

17. The statistical production process can be structured into the identification of user needs, the design of outputs that respond to these needs, the design of appropriate collection instruments (methods of data collection), data collection, data processing, data analysis, data dissemination and evaluation. Such activities need to be improved to achieve an effective and efficient organization of the statistical production process that is able to respond to the increased data needs of the sustainable development goals. The programme will focus on the improvement of the statistical production processes across multiple statistical domains through, for example, the modernization of processes (including data integration), the development of a core infrastructure (e.g., use of standard classifications and business registers) or the use of new data sources, such as geospatial information.

Responding to specific thematic areas

18. The response to specific and, in particular, thematic demands for the sustainable development goals represents the third level of intervention. The focus of this effort is described below.

19. The global statistical system will need to respond to the specific data demands posed by the sustainable development goals covering all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) that are new and have yet to be addressed. Accordingly, the programme will develop new methodological approaches or adapt existing ones for specific indicators or targets and help countries close data gaps and address the need to disaggregate data and to establish a statistical baseline. The selection of the areas should be based on country demand, the comparative advantage of the capacities of the implementing entities and their possible link to analytical and normative processes in this area. This methodological work can be upscaled at the local, national, regional and global levels to help countries measure and monitor the sustainable development goals.

Leveraging, partnerships and coordination

20. In line with the key principles elaborated above, the programme should leverage other initiatives and funding initiatives for strengthening statistical capacities to have a higher multiplier effect. The programme and its implementers should work in close partnership with the United Nations system and other relevant actors along the lines of "fit for purpose" to deliver and develop methodologies.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the statistical capacity of developing countries to measure, monitor and report on the sustainable development goals in an accurate, reliable and timely manner for evidence-based policymaking

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 4 (Statistics); Trade and development subprogramme 1 (Globalization, interdependence and development); Human settlements subprogramme 7 (Research and capacity development); International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice subprogramme 6 (Research, trend analysis and forensics); Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 4 (Statistics); Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 7 (Statistics); Economic development in Europe subprogramme 3 (Statistics); Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 11 (Statistics); Economic and social development in Western Asia subprogramme 5 (Statistics for evidence-based policymaking)

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	350.0
Consultants	3 000.0
Expert group	750.0
Travel	1 800.0
Contractual services	700.0
Operating expenses	200.0
Seminars, workshops	3 200.0
Total	**10 000.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of developing countries to strengthen statistical institutional environments to measure, monitor and report on the sustainable development goals	(IA1.1) Number of target countries that have adopted revised national strategies for the development of statistics based on inputs from the programme
	(IA1.2) Number of country participants trained who confirm increased understanding of the institutional arrangements required for measuring the sustainable development goals
	(IA1.3) Number of countries that establish institutional mechanisms to foster dialogue between users and producers of statistics in the context of the sustainable development goals
(EA2) Strengthened capacity in developing countries to improve statistical production processes to address increased data needs across multiple statistical domains	(IA2.1) Number of improved statistical production processes in countries to measure specific sustainable development goals indicators and targets based on inputs from the programme

(EA3) Strengthened capacity in developing countries to measure and monitor indicators and targets in new statistical and data areas	(IA3.1) Number of countries that started reporting in new areas where the programme provided support
(EA4) Enhanced leveraging, partnerships and collaboration by United Nations system and other partners to help countries strengthen their national statistical systems for measuring the sustainable development goals	(IA4.1) Number of partnerships created within the United Nations system to provide support for statistical strengthening at the national level in the context of the sustainable development goals with the input of the programme
	(IA4.2) Number of partnerships created with external partners to provide support for statistical strengthening at the local, national, regional and international levels
	(IA4.3) Number of countries that are supported by the programme in mobilizing financial resources for strengthening national statistical systems

Main activities

21. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize regional/subregional workshops on the post-2015 agenda and the sustainable development goals, targets and indicators, and the implementation of the required indicators and monitoring framework;

(A1.2) Carry out consultant and advisory missions to target countries to complete a gap analysis reviewing the institutional environment and prepare revised national strategies for the development of statistics and an implementation plan for the monitoring of the sustainable development goals and targets;

(A1.3) Organize national multi-stakeholder workshops to create awareness about and define national strategies for the development of statistics and to address national capacity-building strategies in specific areas;

(A1.4) Organize subregional/international workshops to share lessons learned from revising national strategies for the development of statistics;

(A1.5) Carry out advisory missions to selected countries to provide assistance with strengthening their institutional settings;

(A2.1) Identify statistical production processes where improvements could help to substantially strengthen data measuring and collection for sustainable development goals and lead to more efficient and effective statistical production processes;

(A2.2) Provide a consultant to assist with the drafting of revised guidance, methodologies and/or handbooks on statistical production processes for the compilation of sustainable development goals indicators;

(A2.3) Convene expert group meetings to revise the guidance, methodologies and/or handbooks for statistical production processes for the compilation of sustainable development goals indicators;

(A2.4) Finalize handbooks/guidance for training workshops for the compilation of sustainable development goals indicators;

(A2.5) Organize national workshops to train statisticians in the revised guidance/methodologies for the production processes for the compilation of sustainable development goals indicators;

(A2.6) Carry out advisory missions to help countries to implement the revised production processes;

(A2.7) Organize regional/subregional/international workshops to share lessons learned from implementation of new/revised production processes and disseminate information to a wider audience;

(A2.8) Disseminate best practices and lessons learned at international/regional statistical meetings;

(A2.9) Finalize handbooks for methodologies and adapt the handbooks to specific country or regional settings;

(A2.10) Develop e-learning courses at the regional/subregional and/or international levels on the new/revised processes;

(A2.11) Disseminate lessons learned through websites and publications;

(A3.1) Draft handbooks/guidelines for new methodologies for data collection and statistical production processes for a limited number of sustainable development goals indicators;

(A3.2) Organize expert group meetings to revise the methodologies and/or handbooks;

(A3.3) Finalize handbooks for training workshops for data collection and statistical production processes for a limited number of sustainable development goals indicators;

(A3.4) Organize national workshops to train statisticians on the new methodologies;

(A3.5) Carry out advisory missions to help countries to implement the new methodologies;

(A3.6) Organize regional/subregional/international workshops to share lessons learned from implementation of new methodologies and disseminate information to a wider audience;

(A3.7) Organize side events and workshops at international meetings to train statisticians in the use of the methodologies;

(A3.8) Finalize handbooks for methodologies and adapt the handbooks to specific country or regional settings;

(A3.9) Develop e-learning courses at the regional/subregional and/or international levels on the new methodologies;

(A3.10) Disseminate lessons learned through websites and publications;

(A4.1) Work with the United Nations system and external partners on leveraging existing statistical programmes and forging partnerships;

(A4.2) Collaborate with partners in the execution of the programme at the national/regional and global levels in the specific areas of statistics;

(A4.3) Coordinate programme activities with partners and target countries.

22. The activities as described are very tentative and will be revised based on the more detailed programme document.

Implementation arrangements

23. In view of the enormous demands that will be placed on the United Nations to provide support to developing Member States in the area of statistics and data to measure and monitor implementation of the sustainable development goals, the Development Account Steering Committee proposed that the programme on statistics and data be set at the level of $10 million, which represents approximately 35 per cent of the resources for the tenth tranche. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the programme manager of the Development Account, endorsed the proposal. A key factor in this decision was that the 10 implementing entities committed to work closely together on the planning and implementation of the different elements of the programme, contributing collectively to the execution of the overall programme.

24. The Development Account Steering Committee also proposed that only 50 per cent of the funds be programmed at the outset, thereby providing sufficient flexibility in the allocation of resources to the entities to meet the demands of developing Member States and to assess where refinements in the implementation plan may be required. It is envisaged that the initial two years of the programme will be devoted to conducting needs assessment and identifying critical gaps, promoting dialogue between the national statistical community and policymakers, developing new statistical methodologies and tools, and rolling out existing statistical tools that can help measure certain aspects of the sustainable development goals.

25. The circumstances and stage of statistical development as well as the data needs and priorities of the countries differ by region and subregion. The role of the regional commissions in assessing the critical gaps within their region and developing a plan of action to address those gaps within the limited resources of the programme will be critical to its success. It is envisaged that a subcomponent of the regional approach will target a limited number of countries in each region that would receive support through multiple interventions, in order to obtain greater results and impact, especially in cross-cutting areas such as the strengthening of national coordination mechanisms and the modernization of the statistical systems. The results of such initiatives would be disseminated at the regional and international levels for the purpose of knowledge-sharing. It is also envisaged that achieving strong results will create multiplier effects, which would make it possible for additional countries to participate through partnership arrangements with agencies within the United Nations system and through voluntary contributions from the international community. The identification of countries will be based on demand and capacity to absorb the activities. The programme will build on existing intergovernmental processes, where appropriate, to disseminate the findings and seek inputs.

26. In order to effectively implement the programme and draw on the unique skills and expertise of the 10 implementing entities, it is anticipated that the global entities will have a major role in the development of new statistical standards and methodologies in distinct sectoral areas, including the holding of inter-agency consultations to review, discuss and agree on the proposed methodologies and related tools for implementation.

27. It is envisaged that the five regional commissions would have the central responsibility of disseminating new methodologies and statistical standards to the countries in their region through the organization of national, subregional and regional workshops/seminars to transfer relevant skills and knowledge. The global entities would participate as experts/resource persons in these initiatives, as relevant. The regional commissions will help share the knowledge throughout their regions through existing statistical mechanisms.

28. In order to ensure effective implementation, it is expected that individual programme elements will have one designated lead entity, which will be responsible to work closely with other entities under the programme. The programme should allow for adjustment based on guidance from Member

States, the progress made and experiences gained, the feedback received and the evolving situation in countries.

Management and governance arrangements

29. The programme will be defined and developed in line with recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, as well as decisions taken by the General Assembly in the context of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

30. A Technical Advisory Group, headed by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division and composed of the chief statisticians of the 10 implementing entities, will define the substantive programme elements. Once endorsed by the Programme Management Group (see para. 31 below) and approved by the Development Account programme manager, funds will be allocated to the implementing entities in line with the biennium work plan. The Technical Advisory Group is expected to consult on a monthly basis, or more frequently if needed, to review implementation, exchange updates on the development of methodologies and activities completed, and discuss forthcoming activities. It will also hold meetings in the margins of the United Nations Statistical Commission and during other statistical meetings where the statistical community is present. Additional meetings may be organized, as necessary, for the successful implementation of the programme.

31. A Programme Management Group will be formed, consisting of the Development Account focal points of the 10 implementing entities. The Group will provide input to the finalization of the programme document before submission to the Development Account programme manager and continuous oversight to the implementation of the funds allocated to each entity, and will ensure the submission of required progress reports that will be shared within the Group and with the Development Account management team. Members of the Group will convene virtual meetings at least twice a year, led by the Head of the Capacity Development Office in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

32. The central role of the Development Account Steering Committee is to provide advice to the programme manager on strategic and policy issues, in particular related to the management, coordination, programming, monitoring and evaluation of the Account and reporting on it, and to make recommendations thereon. In this regard, it will provide oversight in all aspects of the implementation of the programme on statistics and data, and provide guidance to the programme manager, as needed. The Steering Committee will be provided with progress and financial updates on the programme at each of its meetings and will receive copies of the annual progress report on programme implementation. In addition, it is expected to play a key oversight role in response to the implementation of recommendations stemming from the mid-term and final evaluation of the programme.

33. It is foreseen that the programme be implemented in two phases. The first phase covers 2016-2017, with a special focus on awareness-raising and methodological development. The second phase focuses more on implementation and scaling-up of capacity-building and training during 2018-2019. A midterm evaluation during the second part of 2017 will help define and guide the implementation of the second phase.

34. An important element of the programme will be the active involvement of entities inside and outside the United Nations family that conduct statistical capacity- building activities. These entities will be invited to participate in and join the programme in the capacity of technical experts and resource persons. Additional and/or parallel funding will be solicited to extend the programme's outreach to more countries or to deepen its activities, with the possible creation of a trust fund at the global level whose activities would be implemented by the 10 implementing entities.

B. Evidence-based eGovernment policies for advancing information technology infrastructure, governmental service delivery and accountability

Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($530,000)

Background

35. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, global consensus was reached affirming that capable and effective institutions at all levels are needed in order to achieve the post-2015 development agenda. Information and communications technologies can help reinvent Government in such a way that existing institutional arrangements can be restructured and new innovative arrangements can flourish, paving the way for collaborative, effective, inclusive, transparent and accountable Government, which is critical for sustainable development. EGovernment can help Governments go green and promote effective natural resources management, stimulate economic growth and promote social inclusion, in particular of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. Moreover, eGovernment can generate important benefits in the form of new employment, better health and education.

36. The High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in its report entitled *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development*, called for a data revolution for sustainable development to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens, which involves actively taking advantage of new technology and improved connectivity to empower people with information. The Panel notes that the growth in the capabilities of information technology provides an opportunity to strengthen the use of data and statistical evidence for decision-making and for accountability purposes. The Panel stresses the need for data, concluding that a true data revolution would draw on existing and new sources of data to fully integrate statistics into decision-making, promote open access to, and use of, data and ensure increased support for statistical systems.

37. The 2014 United Nations eGovernment survey reconfirms that countries in all regions of the world and at all levels of development continue to make significant investments in public sector information and communications technology for the foregoing reasons. Such efforts are vital to achieving broad public participation in decision-making, enhancing access to information and removing barriers to public service, all essential to assure a future of equitable economic growth and sustainable development that is free of poverty and hunger.

38. In order to steadily build capacity in the area of eGovernment and identify areas of strength and weakness, countries need to measure their degree of eGovernment development. The project intends to provide support for this endeavour and build the capacities of developing countries in two regions, Latin America and Central Asia, for evidence-based e-governance policies.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen capacities of public sector institutions in developing countries to design eGovernment indicators, collect and assess data for evidence-based eGovernment policies for improved performance, efficient and effective service delivery as well as transparency and accountability	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)	
	Consultants	79.0
	Expert group meetings	24.0
	Travel	96.0
	Contractual services	40.0
	Operating expenses	3.0
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 7 (Public administration and development management)	Workshops/training	288.0
	Total	**530.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Strengthened capacity of countries in Latin America and Central Asia to measure their degree of eGovernment development in order to identify areas of strength and weakness	(IA1.1) Increased number of public sector institutions in selected countries that defined and adopted their own eGovernment indicators
(EA2) Strengthened institutional capacities of selected countries in these regions overcome the weaknesses defined above through the development of enhanced eGovernment policies	(IA2.1) Increased number of measures taken in selected countries to adopt new policies in the area of eGovernment

Main activities

39. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize an expert group meeting on measuring the degree of eGovernment development and developing a methodological framework for an online toolkit with corresponding dataset requirements;

(A1.2) Design a platform for sharing good practices and using the online toolkit;

(A1.3) Organize and conduct two regional capacity-building workshops for chief information officers, permanent secretaries and/or key public administration officials and representatives of ministries responsible for public services on the ways to use the self-assessment toolkit. The workshops will be conducted, respectively, in two pilot developing countries in different regions, Latin America and Central Asia;

(A1.4) Carry out assessment missions, as requested by countries that participated in the workshops, to provide assistance to relevant institutions in the development of national eGovernment indicators;

(A2.1) Design and administer one online training course in support of the design and implementation of evidence-based eGovernment policies by using the self-assessment online toolkit;

(A2.2) Organize and conduct two regional capacity-building workshops for chief information officers, permanent secretaries and/or key public administration officials and representatives of ministries responsible for public services in the pilot countries to help strengthen areas where weaknesses have been identified through the eGovernment self-assessment toolkit;

(A2.3) Carry out technical advisory missions to assist with the definition of new eGovernment policies;

(A2.4) Prepare a publication on lessons learned about evidence-based eGovernment policies for wider dissemination to other interested countries.

C. Strategies for mitigating the impact of graduation from the least developed countries category

Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($560,000)

Background

40. In the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) Member States committed to providing assistance to least developed countries with the overarching goal of enabling half of such countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020. So far, 4 countries have graduated from the least developed countries category, while 48 countries officially remain in that category.

41. An increasing number of countries have indicated an interest in accelerating their development progress in order to reach the objective of meeting the graduation criteria. However, a recurring argument put forward by them is the uncertainty of losing access to the potential benefits associated with their status as least developed countries.

42. Despite recent efforts to provide assistance to least developed countries in preparing for graduation, one key factor inhibits such countries from embracing the graduation process. This factor is related to the lack of reliable and transparent statistics and data about the extent of international support provided to these countries from the international development community and the uncertainty about the continuation of support after graduation. In this regard, there is a priority need to improve access to and analysis of reliable statistics and data in order for least developed countries to better record and monitor the international support provided to them prior to and after graduation.

43. Capacity-building initiatives for least developed countries should provide support in tracking, monitoring and evaluating the impacts and performance of different types of financing flows, and contribute to ensuring mutual accountability and transparency, including related to the process of graduating from the least developed countries category. Considerable scope exists for South-South learning and cooperation in these activities.

44. In order to concentrate on in-depth capacity development in the beneficiary countries, the project will focus on two to four pilot least developed countries. As part of the project activities, the results obtained through the project will be shared with a broader group of least developed countries.

Objective of the Organization: To increase national capacity in the Governments of selected least developed countries to prepare for and mitigate the potential reduction in international support as a consequence of graduation from least developed countries status	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)	
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 6 (Development policy and analysis)	General temporary assistance	24.0
	Consultants	210.0
	Travel	160.0
	Operating expenses	11.0
	Equipment	22.0
	Workshops/training	133.0
	Total	**560.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Improved capacity in least developed countries to collect, monitor and evaluate quantitative data about their utilization of international support measures, including identifying the sectors where these measures have been applied	(IA1.1) The Governments of targeted pilot least developed countries have collected data on the availability and utilization of international support measures
(EA2) Improved capacity in graduating countries to address the possible implications of the withdrawal of international support measures by development partners and to integrate the resultant changes into relevant development policy strategies	(IA2.1) All participating countries have built capacity for incorporating the implications of a potential or eventual reduction in international support measures into their smooth transition strategies

Main activities

45. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Scoping missions to assess availability and sources of data, and collect inputs for cataloguing existing support measures available to the pilot countries. In one of the pilot countries a case study will be developed, analysing experiences and current practices in the tracking and monitoring of key international support measures and evaluating options for strengthening capacity for generating quality, timely and reliable data. Reviews carried out by experts will determine the format, quality and comparability of information collection on international support measures and the availability of the measures and use in participating least developed countries, and will identify measures to improve the current situation;

(A1.2) Conceptualization and design of a toolkit on the ways to strengthen national statistical capabilities to record, monitor and evaluate countries' access to and use of international support measures. A database will be constructed and instructions for its compilation and use made available online. Training workshops will be conducted in the use of the toolkit and database in the participating least developed countries;

(A1.3) One advisory mission in each country to develop national capabilities for tracking, monitoring and evaluating the impacts and performance of different types of support measures;

(A2.1) Case study analysis, to be conducted on experiences and practices in two countries that have already graduated from the least developed countries category, on retaining and phasing out support measures, including with regard to the implementation of smooth transition from the least developed countries category and to sustainable development implications;

(A2.2) Presentation of the case study analysis, outlining lessons from graduated least developed countries, at a regional workshop;

(A2.3) Capacity-building in the project countries through advisory services and workshops on evaluating the implications of the possible withdrawal of support measures and on negotiating with development partners on the continuation/phasing out of support.

D. Strengthening capacities of selected developing countries to assess progress towards the implementation of the sustainable development agenda in the context of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations regional commissions and United Nations country teams ($395,000)

Background

46. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/290, decided that as from 2016, the High-level Political Forum will replace the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council, established by Assembly resolutions 60/1, on the 2005 World Summit outcome, and 61/16, on the strengthening of the Council, in order to review progress towards the implementation of the United Nations development agenda. The annual ministerial review features national voluntary presentations, which are country-led reviews of progress towards the internationally agreed development goals/Millennium Development Goals. The Forum will maintain this feature and continue to conduct voluntary, country-led reviews of progress towards the follow-up and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

47. The national reviews in 2016 and 2017 will be an opportunity to continue to distil lessons learned and share national experiences with regard to the Millennium Development Goals. This effort will assist in examining emerging development challenges and priorities for a post-2015 development agenda and in defining how to successfully transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development framework. It will also be an opportunity to build on lessons learned from the national voluntary presentations under the annual ministerial reviews and from national reviews conducted in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Some of these lessons indicate that national reviews have enabled Governments to better align national development strategies with the internationally agreed development goals/Millennium Development Goals. They have also offered Governments the opportunity to ensure that national strategies for sustainable development are more accountable, comprehensive and effective owing to the participatory inputs of a broad range of national stakeholders in policy design, assessment and implementation. However, integrating economic, social and environmental considerations, enhancing the participation of non-governmental actors and incorporating Economic and Social Council recommendations into national development strategies, especially those derived from the national voluntary presentations and the annual ministerial reviews, remain a significant challenge for many countries.

48. The proposed project aims at addressing these challenges, building on previous and ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity-building potential of the national reviews under the High-level Political Forum and provide support to countries in the transition towards the new development agenda. The project will also strive to link the national reviews to the regional and global reviews of the Forum and provide a follow-up review mechanism to assess progress in implementing policy recommendations of the national reviews into the national strategies for sustainable development.

49. The target countries will be six developing countries that volunteer to carry out national reviews in 2016 and 2017, and that explicitly request support for the preparation of these reviews and subsequent follow-up actions. The countries will be self-selected in line with the decision of the General Assembly in resolution 67/290 that the reviews shall be voluntary.

50. The project will provide support to target countries in carrying out reviews of their national development strategy in line with the post-2015 development agenda. It is expected that more effective reviews of progress and challenges will help countries formulate a more effective sustainable development strategy and plans for the implementation of these goals. The national reviews will be country-led, with support provided by a common analytical framework developed and revised on the basis of lessons learned from previous national voluntary presentations that can be applied to all countries in line with the shift towards a more universal post-2015 development agenda focused on sustainable development. The focus of capacity development support will be on identifying gaps in policy integration and ways to strengthen policy formulation processes and techniques to better address policy integration.

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the national capacity of selected countries to identify and address new and emerging development challenges and priorities in line with the post-2015 development agenda	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars) Consultants 101.0 Travel 198.0 Workshops/training 96.0 **Total 395.0**
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 1 (Economic and Social Council support and coordination), subprogramme 3 (Sustainable development) and subprogramme 6 (Development policy and analysis)	

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of selected developing countries to conduct self-assessments on progress towards implementation of the post-2015 development agenda	(IA1.1) 70 per cent of national and regional stakeholders/partners involved in the discussion on national progress acknowledge increased capacity to carry out assessments
(EA2) Enhanced capacity of selected developing countries to integrate Economic and Social Council recommendations in their national development strategies	(IA2.1) Four of six national development strategies and plans among selected developing countries integrate Economic and Social Council/High-level Political Forum policy recommendations

Main activities

51. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Conduct national multi-stakeholder workshops to provide assistance to countries in carrying out reviews of their national development strategies and progress towards the post-2015 development agenda;

(A1.2) Provide advisory services to beneficiary countries to conduct national reviews and prepare presentations to the Economic and Social Council/High-level Political Forum;

(A2.1) Conduct national multi-stakeholder workshops in follow-up to the Economic and Social Council/High-level Political Forum presentation. Follow-up adjustments to national strategies for sustainable development that incorporate findings/recommendations of these reviews and policy recommendations emanating from the Council/Forum debate will be addressed. The national workshops are expected to increase national sharing of knowledge, information/data and expertise, in particular with regard to integrative approaches;

(A2.2) Provide multidisciplinary technical advisory services to beneficiary countries to assist them in following-up on the outcome of the workshops and incorporating Economic and Social Council/High-level Political Forum policy guidance and recommendations of national reviews into national strategies for sustainable development.

E. Identification of domestic financial resources for sustainable development in Southern Africa

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa ($525,000)

Background

52. In parallel with renewed efforts to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, preparations are in place to transition to a new post-2015 development agenda with sustainable development at its core. This ambitious development agenda will require a robust framework for sustainable development finance, utilizing all forms of financing, including public, private, domestic and international financing, in a holistic manner. Recognizing that need, in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("The future we want"), Member States decided to establish the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.

53. In a related development, in its resolution 68/204 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, the General Assembly decided to convene the third International Conference on Financing for Development. In its resolution 68/279 on modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Assembly decided to hold the Conference at the highest possible political level, in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015.

54. While financing needs for sustainable development are enormous, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing has found that, globally, public and private savings would be sufficient to meet them. However, the savings are currently not allocated to areas of global need. The challenge for policymakers thus is to unlock these savings and mobilize additional long-term finance for investments in (green) infrastructure, innovation, small- and medium-sized enterprises, social sectors and other sectors critical to achieving sustainable

development. Social sectors would largely be financed through public investments, while other areas will rely on a combination of public and private finance flows. Public policies and public investment will be critical with regard to all of them, but will have to play a catalytic role to facilitate greater private investments.

55. The financing gaps are larger in Africa than in other regions of the developing world. In its Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda, the African Union recognizes the need to mobilize resources from a variety of sources, including both existing global commitments on development and climate financing, and greater domestic resource mobilization and domestic long-term financing.

56. In line with these global and regional priorities, and keeping in mind that more concrete proposals are likely to emerge in the run-up to the third Conference on Financing for Development, especially during the African regional consultation to be carried out by the Economic Commission for Africa, two gap sectors in particular can be identified that require additional long-term financing: small- and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructure.

57. This project will aim to strengthen the capacity of policymakers in selected countries in southern Africa to unlock the savings and mobilize additional long-term finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructure with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. As the project will also seek to respond to the priorities identified in the upcoming International Conference on Financing for Development, the proposed activities may be adapted at a later date.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of the policymakers in selected countries in the Southern African region to unlock the savings and mobilize additional long-term finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructure	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars) General temporary assistance 30.0 Consultants 201.0 Travel 140.0 Contractual services 45.0 Workshops/training 109.0 **Total 525.0**
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 9 (Financing for development); Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 1 (Macroeconomic policy) and subprogramme 2 (Regional integration and trade)	

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Increased awareness and knowledge of the policymakers in selected Southern African countries about issues related to unlocking the savings and mobilizing additional long-term finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructure	(IA1.1) 75 per cent of the participants at the regional seminar acknowledge increased awareness and knowledge of means of unlocking the savings and mobilizing additional long-term finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructure
(EA2) Strengthened capacity of the policymakers in four selected countries in Southern Africa to implement instruments to unlock the savings and mobilize additional long-term finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructure	(IA2.1) Increased number of measures that have been identified and implemented in the pilot countries to apply the instruments that unlock the savings and mobilize additional long-term finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructure

(1A2.2) 75 per cent of trained participants acknowledge increased capacity to implement instruments to unlock the savings and mobilize additional long-term finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructure

Main activities

58. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Development by consultant(s) of methodology/toolkits on selected topics related to unlocking the savings and mobilizing additional long-term finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructure;

(A1.2) Organization of a regional workshop/expert group meeting to discuss/validate the foregoing methodology/toolkits with international experts and experienced policymakers from the Southern African region;

(A2.1) Development of scoping papers to assess the existing situation in four pilot countries as input to activities A2.2 and A2.3 (this will involve country missions);

(A2.2) Organization of four five-day national seminars in four pilot countries focusing on addressing specific priorities and gaps of the pilot countries in the areas relevant to unlocking the savings and mobilizing additional long-term finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructure;

(A2.3) Organization of eight three-day follow-up country missions to four pilot countries with a view to providing assistance to these countries in applying the skills and knowledge acquired through the regional workshop and national seminar to implement the necessary policy changes to unlock the savings and mobilize additional long-term finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructure;

(A2.4) Preparation and publication of four pilot reports;

(A2.5) Organization of a regional seminar to disseminate results of the pilot studies and to encourage additional countries in the region to undertake similar measures;

(A2.6) Development of online tools and/or an online platform to host activities of networks of policymakers involved in the implementation of the project (from the pilot countries and beyond).

F. Monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management

Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($509,000)

Background

59. Effective implementation of sustainable forest management, at all levels, is the main focus of the forest instrument and its four global objectives on forests. The importance of achieving global sustainable forest management is also reflected in the proposed sustainable development goals.

60. Once adopted, in September 2015, a robust monitoring framework will be needed to measure progress towards all the sustainable development goals. Indicators of progress towards numerical or aspirational targets may take many forms and vary based on national contexts. However, in any

eventual mechanism or framework that is adopted, the criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management will undoubtedly constitute a powerful tool to assess progress towards forest-related targets of the sustainable development goals at the national, regional and global levels.

61. The United Nations Forum on Forests has already contributed greatly towards a harmonized and common approach to the monitoring of forests, inter alia, through Forum resolution 4/3 (2004), in which seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management were identified. These elements have guided many countries as they sought to adopt national-level criteria and indicators for monitoring and assessing progress towards sustainable forest management.

62. The seventh tranche of the United Nations Development Account project "Strengthening national reporting in support of the implementation of the forest instrument", conducted by the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), further enhanced the reporting capacity of developing countries and streamlined forest-related data collection. Given that there are several criteria and indicators regional processes (e.g., the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Montreal Process and Forest Europe), efforts are currently being undertaken to further harmonize and streamline reporting on forests.

63. The Forum secretariat is also a member of the steering group of the FAO project "Strengthening criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and their use in policy and practice", which aims to develop a set of key harmonized indicators for reporting on selected topics, including measuring progress towards forest-related sustainable development goals.

64. The tenth tranche of the Development Account project will build on this body of previous work and projects on monitoring and reporting on forests, which were implemented by the Forum secretariat and FAO. It will provide support for setting up monitoring frameworks in selected pilot countries to enable the measurement of progress towards implementation of the forest instrument, its global objectives on forests and forest-related sustainable development goals and targets, concurrently.

65. Through this harmonized approach, the project would reduce the reporting burden on countries and facilitate data collection to serve multiple purposes, different reports and users. Moreover, the project will further contribute to the development of evidence-based policies on forests in the context of sustainable development.

66. The criteria and indicators will focus on forest-related socioeconomic data and the contribution of forests to food security and poverty eradication. The project will provide support to countries in their efforts to implement forest-related sustainable development goals and targets in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of developing countries to monitor progress towards sustainable forest management	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 8 (Sustainable forest management)	General temporary assistance 36.0 Consultants 103.0 Travel 120.0 Contractual services 30.0 Operating expenses 10.0 Workshops/training 210.0 **Total 509.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of target countries to develop and test monitoring frameworks to track progress towards forest-related sustainable development goals and the global objectives on forests	(IA1.1) Target countries have adopted a monitoring framework to measure progress towards forest-related sustainable development goals/forest instrument
(EA2) Increased understanding of policymakers in selected countries about the values and contribution of forest goods and services in their respective countries	(IA2.1) Number of countries that take steps to use the socioeconomic data (IA2.2) Number of trained national stakeholders that indicate improved understanding of the contributions of forests to socioeconomic development

Main activities

67. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Mapping, in selected countries, existing national forest-related databases and identifying potential data gaps and tools to address such gaps. This effort will include not only "classic forest inventories" but also financial data/flows for forests and the contribution of forests to food security and poverty eradication;

(A1.2) Developing the monitoring framework for international forest-related goals and targets (serving the forest instrument, global objectives on forests, sustainable development goals and the 2020 forest resource assessment) in selected countries;

(A1.3) Organizing 12 national workshops (2 per country) attended by a group of stakeholders from relevant sectors (agriculture, water, energy, finance and nature conservation) on the monitoring framework developed in A1.2;

(A2.1) Upon request from the pilot countries, providing advisory services to assist in the development and utilization of the monitoring framework;

(A2.2) Organizing one global meeting or various regional meetings on reporting on forests, convening United Nations Forum on Forests, International Tropical Timber Organization and FAO focal points, to share the experience of pilot countries and endorse the reporting mechanism for a broader group of countries (meetings to be organized back to back with existing events).

68. Some of the foregoing activities also contribute to the achievement of expected accomplishment 2.

G. Evidence-based policy action on youth development in Africa

Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($390,000)

Background

69. Governments in Africa are in the process of adopting national youth development policies and strategies. In so doing, they have signalled their commitment to develop multisectoral policy responses on youth as a part of mainstream national development efforts. Thus far, however, and

notwithstanding some noteworthy advances in a number of countries, little comprehensive evidence-based policy action on youth and young people has ensued. As economies in Africa face challenges in offering jobs for young people, youth migration is becoming alarmingly high, so youth issues become more challenging. Young people in Africa are demanding effective and full participation in policymaking processes, including in the governance, decision-making and development of their communities and societies.

70. In response to repeated calls from Member States for a meaningful assessment of the situation of youth and for monitoring the progress made towards implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth, the Secretary-General, at the fifth-first session of the Commission for Social Development, proposed a set of indicators related to the World Programme of Action. His report provides the main quantitative indicators developed on youth and the monitoring and evaluation framework for the World Programme of Action for Youth.

71. While the established indicators related to the World Programme of Action for Youth are currently being integrated at the national level, work still needs to be done to ensure that Member States have the capacity to use those indicators in their national and local youth policy processes. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is providing support to the African Union in developing a Programme of Action-based set of indicators for the African Youth Charter. The Charter would include not only the Programme of Action indicators but also indicators regarding peace and security or agriculture and environment. The African Union is very keen on leveraging the ongoing work through this new project.

72. The project will deliver comprehensive training on formulating and monitoring participatory evidence-based youth policies in project countries, which will not only assist in service provision and policymaking but also deliver knowledge about youth data and indicators, and cutting edge research on youth. This effort will provide support to policymakers to work with and create the space for young people and civil society organizations. It will also contribute to effective policymaking and a greater awareness of the needs of young people in national planning initiatives about the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth, in particular youth civic engagement, youth employment, juvenile justice, vocational and professional education, and reproductive health.

73. South-South cooperation will be a key component of this project, as some African countries have significant experience and expertise in youth indicators and youth policy review.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen capacities of Governments and youth-led organizations in selected African countries for evidence-based policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on youth	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)	
	Consultants	120.9
	Travel	82.8
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 2 (Social policy and development)	Contractual services	52.0
	Operating expenses	0.8
	Workshops/training	133.5
	Total	**390.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of Governments and youth-led organizations in the target countries to identify national relevant youth development indicators	(IA1.1) A set of youth development indicators selected and recommended to policymakers for policy formulation and monitoring in all target countries

(EA2) Increased capacity of Governments and youth-led organizations in the project countries to use youth development indicators in formulating, reviewing and monitoring evidence-based youth policies and strategies	(IA2.1) Increased number of Government officials and representatives of youth-led organizations able to use youth development indicators for policy development (IA2.2) Increased number of youth policies and programmes supported by data and youth development indicators at the national level are formulated, strengthened and monitored in all target countries

Main activities

74. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Analysis of available data at the national level and identification of gaps in data required for national youth indicators;

(A1.2) Selection from the existing World Programme of Action for Youth indicators and adaptation/development of youth indicators for the African Youth Charter. Consultations with relevant stakeholders, especially national Governments and youth-led organizations, to adapt the indicators to the national youth development context;

(A1.3) Awareness-raising about and dissemination of youth indicators and local youth policies among grass-roots youth organizations and relevant local authorities at the provincial level in the project countries, with a view to strengthening youth civic engagement at the local level (30 round tables and local workshops);

(A2.1) Organization of national workshops to identify core substantive priority areas for a sound national evidence-based youth policy/programme in the project countries. The experts will review existing youth policies and programmes, and provide recommendations for evidence-based policy action;

(A2.2) Drafting of recommendations on ways to apply the youth development indicators for policy formulation and monitoring within the framework of the World Plan of Action for Youth. Recommendations will build on the work carried out by the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank and other relevant entities in this area;

(A2.3) Organization of national workshops to provide training in the use of the recommendations developed in A2.2 on the indicators for policy formulation and monitoring for staff of the key government agencies and youth-led organizations;

(A2.4) Provision of advisory services to national ministries and agencies, including bureaux of statistics, to further implement recommendations developed in A2.2;

(A2.5) Design of a national youth policy or adjustment of the existing one, in close cooperation with Governments and youth-led organizations, using the indicators. Establishment of a policy-monitoring mechanism using the indicators;

(A2.6) Organization of national validation workshops, with key stakeholders representing relevant government agencies and youth-led organizations, to validate the policies and/or monitoring mechanisms on youth policies or sectoral policies involving youth;

(A2.7) Provision of support for specific activities on the government-identified World Programme of Action for Youth priorities, in national youth policies and programmes

through provision of advisory services to the national agencies and youth-led organizations participating in the implementation.

H. Implementation of national sustainable development strategies in selected countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme ($596,800)

Background

75. There is overwhelming evidence that a significant gap exists globally between stated commitments to sustainable development and the reality of sustainable development implementation. In the run-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the reports from the national preparations bodies underscored the need for more coherent planning and decision-making at and between the national, subnational and local levels of Government and throughout thematic sectors. The evidence shows that few countries can boast of a well-functioning coordination mechanism with the capacity to align efforts with key, often multisectoral, national objectives. A main conclusion from a review of the reports is that translating the idea of sustainable development into practice by integrating economic, social and environmental aims and approaches remains difficult for most countries.

76. In the outcome document of the Conference, "The future we want", the representatives underscore the importance of coherent and effective institutional frameworks to efficiently bridge the implementation gap for sustainable development (para. 75). They also emphasize the need for enhanced capacity-building for sustainable development, including the provision of technical assistance, which involves strengthening institutional capacity (para. 277) and ask for enhanced evidence-based decision-making. Furthermore, in his report on mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/68/79), the Secretary-General recognizes that one of the main challenges countries continue to face is integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development into national planning and implementation, and that in government ministries, institutional arrangements are shaped along sectoral lines. There is a need to instead pursue integrated practices (para. 76 (b)).

77. The second meeting of the High-level Political Forum in July 2014 underscored the importance of moving from silos to integration and highlighted a number of key issues that should be taken into consideration in this transition. First is the interaction between the political process and national institutions; second is the need to forge coalitions and networks and to institutionalize inclusive mechanisms so that a wider range of stakeholders are involved in decision-making and implementation. Furthermore, capacities will need to be strengthened to enable integrated planning. In this regard, integrated modelling and planning approaches are being increasingly used at the national level. Such approaches can provide support for integrated decision-making by allowing different sectors to use the same data and baselines, and by highlighting the strength of interdependences throughout sectors and the existing trade-offs and synergies among them. This effort in turn enables policymakers to explore the performance of policies against multiple objectives. However, such capacities are currently very limited and there is a need to provide significant support for national capacities for the implementation of these approaches and support

for mechanisms for learning and networking within and between countries so that the knowledge can be shared.

78. It is against that backdrop that this project is being proposed. The project will be based on demand from the selected countries in order to ensure ownership and sustainability of outcomes. Facilitation will be provided for policy dialogue processes that are inclusive and the strengthening of institutional arrangements so that they make possible the embedding of sustainable development in core governance structures, planning and decision-making processes, and programme execution and management practices.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacities of selected countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to implement their national sustainable development strategies	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)	
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social affairs subprogramme 3 (Sustainable development)	General temporary assistance	15.0
	Consultants	306.0
	Travel	108.0
	Seminars, workshops	160.0
	Operating expenses	7.8
	Total	**596.8**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced institutional governance mechanisms in place for the implementation of national sustainable development strategies	(IA1.1) Number of inclusive and multisectoral institutional frameworks adopted in the target countries to address sustainable development strategies
	(IA1.2) Number of integrated and inclusive planning and budgetary processes that are being implemented in the target countries in pursuit of national sustainable development priorities
(EA2) Increased alignment of national policies, plans and programmes with the national sustainable development strategies	(IA2.1) Number of national policies, plans and programmes developed that use integrated approaches, tools and methodologies

Main activities

79. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Carry out advisory missions and provide ongoing support to facilitate policy dialogue processes at the national level to reinforce the functioning of the national institutional governance systems;

(A1.2) Organize national training workshops on institutional governance mechanisms for the implementation of national sustainable development strategies;

(A1.3) Organize an interregional workshop to share the lessons learned. The outcomes of the workshop will also be shared through the knowledge platform of the national High-level Political Forum focal points;

(A2.1) Appoint national consultants to provide training and support for the use of guidelines and tools for sectoral alignment and programme implementation in line with national sustainable development priorities;

(A2.2) Carry out analytical studies to generate knowledge and case evidence on implementing sustainable development in the target countries and disseminate knowledge globally, including during the Forum and through the Forum focal points network;

(A2.3) Provide training, facilitate dialogue and forge learning partnerships, especially with the scientific community, for the preparation of national sustainable development reports and contributions to the global sustainable development report.

I. Trade and agricultural policies to support small-scale farmers and enhance food security

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ($646,000)

Background

80. The growth of the agricultural sector is crucial for achieving a number of development goals in developing and least developed countries. Among these goals are enhancing overall economic growth and poverty reduction, improving food security and conserving natural resources. In most low-income countries the agricultural sector is a key contributor to the economy owing to its relative size in terms of value and its linkages to the rest of the economy. Agriculture tends also to be the largest employer in such countries. Many of the world's poor depend directly on agriculture for their livelihood, in particular women and women-headed households. Growth in agriculture has a disproportionately positive effect on poverty reduction, since poverty is predominantly a rural phenomenon.

81. There is an increasing awareness about the relationship between agriculture and environmental and social issues. The economic dimension includes the land, labour and capital that enter into the production process and the resulting outputs. The environmental dimension recognizes that agriculture is a significant user of environmental resources, in particular, land and water, and a provider of environmental services. The social dimension covers the need to reduce risk and vulnerability, including food security, and issues related to gender. A well-developed and well-integrated agricultural sector should enhance food security, increase income, including for small-size farmers and female farmers, create important linkages in production chains and have a positive impact on the environment. In many cases, however, there appears to be a disconnection between agricultural, rural development and food security policies, and trade and competition policies. Lack of coordination and coherence among policies risks jeopardizing the achievement of the goals of improved food security and reduced poverty, especially in rural areas.

82. The aim of this project is therefore to provide support to Governments in five countries, developing and least developed countries, in the Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean regions, to develop sound and complementary agricultural and trade policies with a view to improving income for small-size farmers, including female farmers, through their integration in regional and global markets and access by them to food retail chains on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms, and to enhancing food security and food affordability at the household and country levels.

83. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is the focal point in the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development. UNCTAD is particularly well positioned to provide support to developing and least developed countries in enhancing coherence between trade, agriculture and other national policies owing to its long-standing expertise on trade issues, including through data collection and analysis, and on the impact of trade policy on the well-being of different segments of the population within countries.

Objective of the Organization: To provide support to Governments in selected countries in Asia and the Latin America and the Caribbean region to enhance food security and improve income for small-size farmers through sound and complementary agricultural and trade policies	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars) General temporary assistance 40.0 Consultants 205.0 Travel 138.0 Contractual services 33.0 Workshops/training 230.0 **Total 646.0**
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Trade and development subprogramme 3 (International trade)	

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Improved understanding by Governments and other relevant stakeholders in beneficiary countries of the complementarities between agriculture and trade policy in order to achieve sustainable development objectives	(IA1.1) 75 per cent of the trained beneficiaries confirm understanding of the tools and analysis required for designing the complementary agricultural and trade policies
(EA2) Enhanced capacities of relevant ministries or departments in beneficiary countries to design and implement complementary and coherent trade and agricultural policies	(IA2.1) At least three of the five beneficiary countries have designed and started to implement complementary agricultural and trade policies (IA2.2) 75 per cent of the trained beneficiaries confirm an increased capacity to design and implement complementary agricultural and trade policies

Main activities

84. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Conducting field missions in five selected countries to collect relevant data on production, employment, gender participation and food security aspects of agriculture, including through community surveys and information available at the national level, and to set up collaboration links with national stakeholders and partner international organizations in order to institutionalize this information and knowledge flow;

(A1.2) Mapping agricultural non-tariff measures in the five selected countries and their regional trading partners by categorizing national and regional regulations; analysing the regulatory distance to assess the level of regional integration;

(A1.3) Conducting surveys focusing on rural communities, concerning issues such as land titling; availability of fertilizers and pesticides; access to irrigation, extension services

and market information; distance to markets or roads; access to food distribution networks; access to credit; and share of cash crops and staples out of total production;

(A1.4) Developing trade and agricultural reviews in the five selected countries using the data collected in A1.1-A1.3;

(A1.5) Organizing two regional training workshops (including five non-beneficiary countries) to share the trade and agriculture reviews, as well as the ideas, tools, data and best practices on how to ensure coherence between trade, rural development, gender and food security policies;

(A2.1) Providing training to national stakeholders through hands-on advisory missions in the five selected countries on how to use trade policies and trade negotiations as instruments to foster rural development and food security in order to build their capacity for drafting relevant and complementary policies;

(A2.2) Organizing two regional workshops for selected policymakers from beneficiary countries to build capacity in designing and implementing the complementary and coherent trade, agriculture, competition, gender and other relevant policies to achieve the sustainable development goals.

J. Informal cross-border trade for empowerment of women, economic development and regional integration in the Great Lakes region

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic Commission for Africa ($547,000)

Background

85. Informal cross-border trade is trade between neighbouring countries conducted by vulnerable, small, unregistered traders. Typically, it is proximity trade involving the move of produce between markets close to the border. The informality refers to the status of the trader (unregistered), not necessarily to the trade itself (captured or unrecorded by the official customs system). Informal cross-border trade has discrete gender impacts: in major cross-border posts within the Great Lakes subregion, women account for as high as 74 per cent of all informal traders.

86. This female-intensive sector has broad poverty and development ramifications. It constitutes a vital source of employment and livelihood for the poor, in particular for low-income and low-skilled women, in border districts. Furthermore, if properly supported, it can generate significant rural non-farm income and become a catalyst for value chain creation and support in rural areas. This benefit, in turn, can lower rural unemployment and slow rural-urban migration, while empowering women.

87. If these and other gender-specific constraints are effectively tackled, informal cross-border trade can turn into a vibrant micro-entrepreneurial reality with significant potential to help alleviate poverty, contribute to food security and empower women.

88. From a subregional perspective, informal cross-border trade can unleash a genuine process of economic integration by developing local economic exchange in the Great Lakes subregional block. Such trade can be central to revive cooperation and economic integration within the

framework of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries,[1] thus contributing to peace and environmental stability in the region.

89. This project aims to tackle some of the gender-specific obstacles faced by informal cross-border traders in three countries in the Great Lakes region. By leveraging informal cross-border trade for the empowerment of women, poverty alleviation and peacebuilding, this project is linked to the greatest global challenge facing the world today: poverty eradication, security and socially inclusive development.

90. The project focus is twofold. The first component focuses on tariff and non-tariff barriers (market access issues). A range of non-tariff barriers still continue to operate at the border. These include certificates of product origin, fees for various border services and other informal taxes. Compliance with these multiple fees and certification requirements is particularly burdensome for informal women traders with little literacy skills and information, and exposes them to abuse. The second component focuses on supply-side obstacles. As mentioned, women cross-border traders in the subregion face gender-specific challenges that translate into significant competitive disadvantages. They tend to have little knowledge about cross-border trade regulations and procedures, which may lead to abuse. Owing to reduced access to credit, there is little start-up capital and the scale of operations is limited, with comparably high unit costs for logistics services. Furthermore, women traders rely more heavily than men on walking and public transport to get their products to market, which translates into delays, missed market days and perished goods. They also trade in less profitable goods than their male counterparts. In addition, security issues arise prominently. It is critical to redress these gender-specific imbalances through the adoption of trade facilitation measures that are gender-sensitive and gender-redistributive.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen national capacities in selected African countries to leverage informal cross-border trade for the empowerment of women, economic development and regional integration	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Trade and development subprogramme 3 (International trade)	General temporary assistance 30.0 Consultants 206.0 Travel 110.0 Contractual services 85.0 Operating expenses 2.0 Workshops/training 114.0 **Total 547.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Improved capacity of policymakers and private stakeholders to identify and address tariff and non-tariff barriers to women informal cross-border traders in the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries subregion	(IA1.1) Increased availability of disaggregated data (by product and country) on tariff and non-tariff barriers that hinder informal cross-border trade by women in the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries subregion in the three target countries

[1] The Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries is a regional economic community based in Gisenyi, Rwanda, composed of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

	(IA1.2) 70 per cent of trained policymakers and private stakeholders confirm improved capacity to identify and address tariff and non-tariff barriers to women informal cross-border traders
(EA2) Improved capacity of policymakers and private stakeholders in the beneficiary countries to identify and redress gender-specific supply-side obstacles faced by women informal cross-border traders within the subregion	(IA2.1) Increased availability and awareness of policy options and instruments to overcome supply-side obstacles for women informal cross-border traders in the subregion in all three target countries
	(IA2.2) 70 per cent of trained beneficiaries (from the public and private sectors) confirm improved capacity to identify and redress gender-specific supply-side obstacles to women informal cross-border traders

Main activities

91. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Undertake a baseline assessment of informal cross-border traders, trade flows and border-crossing conditions at three major subregional crossing points. This activity involves both the baseline assessment for tariff and non-tariff barriers and supply-side obstacles. (This activity also counts towards A.2.1);

(A1.2) Conduct three "kick-off workshops" at three major subregional crossing points. Through the use of participative and interactive approaches, the workshops will provide a forum for: the early engagement of the national counterpart teams; the validation and fine-tuning of the baseline assessment results by reference to actual conditions at the three crossing points; the conduct of a needs assessment exercise, in terms of the format and content of the specific project deliverables technical document on tariff and non-tariff barriers. (This activity also counts towards EA2 as A.2.2);

(A1.3) Prepare a technical document that maps out product-specific tariff and non-tariff barriers that restrain women informal cross-border traders in the Great lakes subregion (three major subregional crossing points mentioned in A.1.2); assess the implementation of ongoing reform processes (including the establishment of one-stop windows/ fast-track clearance systems for informal cross-border traders); and make detailed policy recommendations as to further reform needed;

(A1.4) Organize three advisory missions in the target countries to provide support to policymakers in using the information generated by the project to formulate evidence-based policies;

(A1.5) Conduct training for women traders on tariff and non-tariff barriers, and informal traders' rights and obligations at border crossings;

(A1.6) Organize a subregional workshop (see A.2.4);

(A2.1) Undertake a baseline assessment (see A.1.1);

(A2.2) Conduct kick-off workshops (see A.1.2);

(A2.3) With specialized inputs from local research institutions and non-governmental organizations, develop a policy paper that details policy intervention to overcome supply-side obstacles to women informal cross-border traders;

(A2.4) Organize a subregional workshop to disseminate the project results and discuss options to overcome tariff and non-tariff barriers and supply-side obstacles for informal cross-border traders within the subregion. Participants will include the three national counterpart teams and other representatives from ministries, civil society and industry. The activity is national (not local) in scope and involves a broader audience than the kick-off workshops, in particular at the governmental level.

K. Value addition of cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ($591,000)

Background

92. Millions of people in Eastern and Southern Africa depend on the cotton industry for their livelihoods. The cotton sector, which generates export earnings, employment and income, is strategically important for combating poverty, ensuring food security and achieving sustainable development. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Eastern and Southern Africa accounted for about 30 per cent of Africa's cotton production in 2011-2012. The International Cotton Advisory Committee estimated that Eastern and Southern Africa produced 390,000 tons of cotton in 2012-2013 and 530,000 tons in 2013-2014.

93. Cotton is mainly processed to obtain lint, but it also produces by-products, such as cotton seed and cotton stalk. Cotton seed can be used to produce edible oil and oil cake to feed livestock. Cotton stalks have proved to be a useful agricultural raw material in the production of particle board, paper and pulp or corrugated boxes. However, because of limited processing capacity in Eastern and Southern Africa, a large part of cotton seed is wasted and the bulk of the stalk is burned off in the fields after the harvest of the cotton crop.

94. Making full use of cotton by-products can bring economic benefits and additional income to small cotton producers and help to reduce the adverse environmental impact. Burning cotton stalks in the fields releases large amounts of greenhouse gases. Entomologists also argue that the cotton stalks, left in the field with unpicked bolls, are a major source of pests carried over from one year to the other. Therefore, the proper use of cotton stalks can also contribute to reducing carbon dioxide and avoiding insect infection and related problems.

95. Considering the potentially important economic and environmental benefits generated from the value addition of cotton by-products, the secretariat of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) considers the development of cotton by-products as one of the priority activities in its recently adopted regional cotton to clothing strategy. Furthermore, developing local and regional value chains for cotton by-products will contribute to the implementation of the pan-African cotton road map, a continent-wide cotton strategy devised following extensive multi-stakeholder consultations by UNCTAD with major public and private stakeholders in the African cotton sector.

96. This project is developed in compliance with a specific request from the COMESA secretariat. According to COMESA, only a very small number of cotton by-product processing units exist in the region. In order to increase the value addition of cotton by-products, it is important, as a first step, to objectively assess their local/regional value chains. This undertaking implies a detailed analysis of the logistic supply chain as well as primary production and processing of cotton

by-products. Moreover, it is crucial to examine the marketing conditions, including current and potential markets for processed cotton by-products. It is also important to design appropriate policies and incentives to attract investment and fully explore the potential of cotton by-products. However, the lack of data on the cotton by-products value chain in the region constitutes a major constraint for assessing the economic viability of such by-products and developing effective policies to promote their sustainable utilization. The project will help to close this statistical and policy gap, and will be implemented in four major cotton-producing countries.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of selected countries in Eastern and Southern Africa to assess the economic viability of the development of cotton by-products and formulate evidence-based policies that promote their value addition	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Trade and development subprogramme 3 (International trade)	General temporary assistance 25.0 Consultants 136.2 Travel 82.3 Contractual services 140.0 Operating expenses 5.5 Workshops/training 202.0 **Total 591.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Improved capacity of cotton value chain stakeholders, including government officials, the private sector and farmers' associations in target beneficiary countries to assess the potential value, market situation and prospects for cotton by-products	(IA1.1) Four target countries have collected and analysed statistics on the cotton by-products value chain, including the availability of raw material, processing and market conditions of these by-products (i.e., cotton seed and stalk)
	(IA1.2) National action plans aiming to increase the value addition of cotton by-products have been developed and adopted by cotton value chain stakeholders in at least three of the four target countries
(EA2) Improved capacity of policymakers in the beneficiary countries/region to (a) formulate evidence-based policies that promote the value addition of cotton by-products; and (b) devise investment profiles to attract potential investors	(IA2.1) At least three of the four target countries have taken steps to adopt policies to enhance the value addition of cotton by-products
	(IA2.2) Cotton by-product investment profiles developed in three of the four target countries

Main activities

97. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Conduct surveys in four major cotton-producing countries in Eastern and Southern Africa and prepare country reports that assess the value chain of cotton by-products;

(A1.2) Prepare a paper that (a) compares and analyses the key findings in four country surveys carried out under activity A1.1; (b) shares best practices from countries that have

successfully developed cotton by- products; and (c devises a strategy to promote value addition of cotton by-products in the targeted Eastern and Southern Africa countries;

(A1.3) Based on the outcome of activities A1.1 and A1.2, organize a two-day national seminar in each of the four target countries so as to: (a) build capacity of cotton value chain stakeholders on key issues linked with cotton by-products, including their potential value, market situation and prospects; (b) validate the reports; and (c) agree on national action plans to increase the value addition of cotton by-products;

(A1.4) Organize a study tour for cotton value chain stakeholders from the four beneficiary countries to learn from best practices on cotton by-product processing in model countries;

(A2.1) Organize a special session (0.5 day) for policymakers during the national seminars (A1.3) to: (a) assess the current policy framework for cotton by-products processing in targeted countries; (b) review best practices in cotton by-products policy formulation; and (c) identify policy gaps and potential actions in developing cotton by-products in targeted countries;

(A2.2) Provide assistance through advisory missions (UNCTAD) and services (consultants) to support countries in developing evidence-based policies and finalize/adopt the action plan developed in A1.3;

(A2.3) Work with the investment promotion institutions in the four target countries to develop cotton by-product investment profiles to attract investments into the sector. This activity will be delivered through advisory missions (UNCTAD) and services (consultants);

(A2.4) Organize a two-day subregional meeting to share lessons learned from this project and identify follow-up activities in developing cotton by-products.

L. Development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa ($501,000)

Background

98. Part of the challenge facing developing countries involves the mobilization of large-scale resources and their allocation to new areas of economic dynamism and productivity growth through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including by focusing on high value-added and labour-intensive sectors. Economists have extensively debated the challenges of a "big industrialization push" and the merits, or otherwise, of countries trying to "pick winners". Still, none of today's more developed economies reached their current levels of prosperity by leaving the process of structural transformation to the free play of market forces. Those countries have practiced what has been called "adaptive efficiency", developing institutions that provide a stable economic environment for existing activities to flourish while at the same time allowing room for, and providing support to, new lines of activity and promoting technological upgrading. They have also adopted integrated policy frameworks that bring together macroeconomic, trade and sectorial policies in support of structural transformation. These economies have progressively become more diversified as their incomes have risen. Poor economies, by contrast, depend on a relatively narrow range of commodities and services and face an ever-widening technological gap. They too, however, want and need to gain the human and economic benefits of industrial development.

99. In recent years, developing countries have again been looking at how they can use development policies more effectively, in some cases to diversify away from commodity dependence or to make more effective use of abundant labour resources, in order to break out of a "middle-income trap" and, in a few cases, to push on towards the technological frontier. These experiences have added a deeper appreciation of the complexities involved and the challenges faced by policymakers throughout the developing world. There is therefore a growing demand to take stock and share the current experiences, and to improve the understanding of approaches that have been successful in promoting structural transformation in different countries.

100. Through this project, UNCTAD proposes to build capacity in developing economies in Southern Africa. This region is characterized by the presence of a large emerging economy, surrounded by smaller emerging economies and least developed countries, but which, as yet, are only weakly integrated through trade and capital flows compared to other regions. The aim of the project is to disseminate the results of UNCTAD research in terms of methodologies and tools for designing strategies for the progressive diversification of the production and export structure of the economy.

101. UNCTAD has received a number of requests from developing countries in different geographical areas for policy analyses and suggestions related to export diversification and structural transformation. The beneficiary countries for this project will therefore, in addition to those directly involved, be other developing countries, including least developed countries and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen national capacities in selected countries in Southern Africa to formulate and implement integrated productive development policies for sustainable economic growth and to strengthen the regional integration process in the Southern African Development Community	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Trade and development subprogramme 1 (Globalization, interdependence and development)	General temporary assistance 24.0 Consultants 110.0 Travel 143.0 Contractual services 18.0 Workshops/training 206.0 **Total 206.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced understanding by policymakers in selected countries of the processes of economic diversification and structural transformation and their linkages with development	(IA1.1) 75 per cent of participants of project activities indicate that they have an enhanced understanding of economic diversification and structural transformation, and of the policies needed to sustain them
(EA2) Strengthened capacity of policymakers in selected countries to better formulate sectoral policies in line with their development needs, and that promote linking into already existing regional value chains for productive transformation	(IA2.1) Policymakers in developing countries indicate that they are better able to formulate development policies to increase their participation in value chains and enhance their productive capacities based on the pragmatic policy briefs and training workshops delivered by UNCTAD
	(IA2.2) High-level policymakers in developing countries endorse policy options proposed during the workshops

Main activities

102. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Country-level preliminary and fact-finding missions carried out in the four target countries to gather information on the key challenges and material to prepare four policy briefs;

(A1.2) Preparation of four policy briefs applying the messages of recent UNCTAD publications to the challenges faced during the processes of economic diversification and structural transformation in specific geographical contexts;

(A1.3) Organization of a policy dialogue regional workshop in South Africa to identify obstacles to deeper regional integration in targeted Southern African Development Community members and to facilitate regional coordination of productive development policies, including through a discussion of the potential expansion of regional value chains;

(A1.4) Preparation of a policy brief based on the discussion at the regional workshop, which focuses on the regional coordination of productive development policies in Southern African Development Community countries;

(A1.5) Preparation of training modules that summarize the key methodological and technical issues. The modules will include both more general presentation of different policy strategies and applied instruments that could be implemented by policymakers. In addition, they will include the key results presented in the policy briefs;

(A1.6) Creation of a web platform that contains all the material used as background for the training workshops and an interactive blog. The blog will also serve as: (a) an instrument to sustain the continuous sharing of experiences among policymakers from different developing countries; and (b) a way for UNCTAD experts to continuously post new publications and papers in order to provide support for local policymaking efforts and disseminate in-house research;

(A1.7) Organization of national training workshops. Four national workshops will be organized in the target countries to train policymakers and build local capacity to formulate policies to sustain industrial development and on linking into value chains for productive transformation;

(A2.1) Organization of a regional follow-up workshop in South Africa to discuss with high-level policymakers the implementation of the policies proposed by UNCTAD at the national and regional levels and to provide policy advice. The workshop will be aimed at strengthening regional integration in Southern African Development Community countries and will be organized with the Community secretariat;

(A2.2) Preparation and publication of a final handbook to disseminate the lessons learned. The handbook will build on the training modules, the ad hoc policy briefs and the discussion that will take place during the workshops. It will be disseminated through the web platform.

M. Indices for benchmarking productive capacities for evidence-based policymaking in landlocked developing countries

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ($599,000)

Background

103. Unlike other developing countries, landlocked developing countries find themselves in multiple development challenges. On the one hand, their geographical disadvantages, such as remoteness from international markets and the resulting high transit-transport costs and relatively small domestic markets, continue to undermine their international competitiveness. On the other hand, their heavy dependence on low-value, high-volume primary commodities for exports, weak productive capacities and the overall lack of structural transformation in their economies have compounded further their prospects for growth, poverty reduction and overall development.

104. There is recognition that the key for sustained development and poverty reduction in landlocked developing countries is to build their productive capacities and promote structural economic transformation. This effort requires, among other things, a paradigm shift in development policies in those countries and fundamental changes in the development partnership in support of their development. In particular, it requires putting productive capacity-building at the centre of domestic and international policies related to landlocked developing countries. This means that macroeconomic, industrial, agricultural, rural and infrastructure policies should be geared towards the development of productive capacities and accelerating structural economic transformation.

105. Placing productive capacities at the centre of development policies and strategies ("mainstreaming") is, however, not easy or straightforward. For instance, although weak productive capacities and lack of structural transformation are recognized as causes and consequences of poor socioeconomic performances and underdevelopment in landlocked developing countries, to date, these have not been measured or benchmarked, nor have there been indicators for measuring and benchmarking productive capacities in those countries. Identifying indicators and constructing productive capacity indices for measuring and benchmarking productive capacities have therefore become absolutely indispensable in the recent years. The indicators and indices will assist in placing building productive capacities at the centre of domestic development policies and strategies of landlocked developing countries.

106. The project plans to work in three landlocked developing countries, two from Africa and one from Asia. The main beneficiaries of the project will include policymakers, advisers, experts, statistical offices, programme evaluation and monitoring agencies, research and development, and science and technology centres, private sector and civil society actors, including academic and research institutions in beneficiary countries, regional organizations and relevant United Nations agencies. National training and capacity-building workshops at the policy and expert levels could be organized to share and validate the findings, conclusions and specific outcomes of the project.

107. The project has a direct link with several years' analytical and conceptual work of UNCTAD in advancing the development of productive capacities and structural economic transformation in developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. A major output of the project will be the productive capacity index, which will guide efforts to mainstream productive capacities into national development policies. The index will also help to identify domestic gaps and limitations and to articulate specific actions for implementation by landlocked developing countries and their development partners in building the productive capacities of those countries.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of selected landlocked developing countries to develop productive capacity indices and use them to support evidence-based policymaking	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)	
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Trade and development subprogramme 5 (Africa, least developed countries and special programmes); Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 1 (Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development); Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 1 (Macroeconomic policy)	General temporary assistance	60.0
	Consultants	126.0
	Travel	150.0
	Operating expenses	8.0
	Workshops/training	255.0
	Total	**599.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Increased capacity of relevant ministries and entities to measure and benchmark productive capacities with the help of productive capacity indices	(IA1.1) Productive capacity indices constructed and validated in the three targeted countries
(EA2) Increased capacity of policymakers in beneficiary countries to understand, interpret and use productive capacity indices as a tool to formulate and monitor policies and strategies aimed at enhancing productive capacity and structural transformation	(IA2.1) 75 per cent of trained policymakers in the three targeted countries confirm increased capacity to use productive capacity indices in formulating evidence-based policies and strategies and monitoring their progress
	(IA2.2) Policymakers in all three targeted countries have taken steps to improve policies and strategies aimed at enhancing productive capacity and structural transformation based on productive capacity indices
(EA3) Improved capacity of selected countries to regularly collect statistics and related information in key areas of productive capacities	(IA3.1) Institutions dealing with statistics in the three project countries confirm improved capacity to collect statistics and related information in key areas of productive capacities

Main activities

108. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Defining the conceptual, methodological and statistical framework for identifying, selecting and validating indicators that will be used in the construction of productive capacity indices;

(A1.2) Systematically collecting and organizing statistical data and related information on key issues and developing productive capacity indices on the basis of available data and statistical information;

(A1.3) Undertaking national case studies in selected landlocked developing countries to assess the state or conditions of policy and institutional framework for building productive

capacities in the selected countries, the synthesis of which will be included in a publication;

(A1.4) Validating indicators identified and productive capacity indices constructed by undertaking consultations, through advisory missions, with key ministries and relevant entities in beneficiary countries. This activity is intended to identify crucial ministries as "champions" of the work undertaken and the findings and conclusions of the project, which is the key to ensuring ownership and mobilizing wider stakeholders as to the benefit of the exercise;

(A2.1) Organizing national training workshops at the expert level on the conceptual, methodological and statistical issues, and on the construction and interpretation of productive capacity indices. The workshops enable participants to clearly understand conceptual, methodological and statistical issues behind productive capacity indices;

(A2.2) Organizing national training workshops at the policy level on the interpretation, validation and use of productive capacity indices in the formulation of domestic development policies and strategies, and monitoring their implementation;

(A2.3) Establishing national advisory services with the aim of reorienting policies and strategies towards building productive capacities;

(A3.1) Developing a portal for online publication of the productive capacity indices together with key indicators used in the construction of the indices. The portal will be useful to continuously update the indices and share experiences and best practices throughout countries and regions in building productive capacities. In an effort to disseminate the productive capacity indices, the portal will be launched and the information will be made available at national workshops and various meetings outside this project;

(A3.2) As part of national statistical capacity-building, organizing workshops for intensive "training of trainers" in updating and maintaining productive capacity indices. The trained trainers will subsequently train technocrats from selected ministries and institutions.

N. Air quality data for health and environment policies in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region

United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme ($559,000)

Background

109. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 3.5 million people die each year from outdoor air pollution. From 2005 to 2010, the death rate rose by 4 per cent worldwide, by 5 per cent in China and by 12 per cent in India. The cost of air pollution to the world's most advanced economies plus India and China is estimated to be $3.5 trillion per year in lives lost and ill health. In the countries members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development the monetary impact of death and illness owing to outdoor air pollution in 2010 is estimated to have been $1.7 trillion.

110. The health impacts of air pollution are much larger than was thought only a few years ago. WHO estimates that in 2012 about 7 million premature deaths resulted from air pollution, more than

double the previous estimates. The new estimate is based on increasing knowledge of air pollution-related diseases and use of improved air quality measurements and technology. This project builds on these new technologies and contributes to the expanding knowledge base by providing support to countries in strengthening the evidence base for policies related to air quality. The project will promote the use of tools, methods and monitoring networks to share near real time air quality data.

111. As the environmental and health domains have largely developed in parallel over time, the project will also employ innovative approaches such as semantic ontologies to help bring together knowledge from both domains and deliver outcomes that build on the best insights and expertise from environmental and health disciplines.

112. The targeted interventions proposed in the project are expected to address significant gaps in the knowledge base on air quality and health, and the disconnection between the two areas in support of policymaking. Target-setting to improve air quality should be based on the latest science, including the best possible estimates of the impacts of air pollution on the health of people and ecosystems. As air pollution is by nature a largely transboundary issue, data and information will be drawn from local networks and regional and global sources. Special efforts will be made to capture monitoring data from established initiatives and to use innovative, less conventional monitoring methods (e.g., data collected through mobile sensor apps and use of biomonitors, such as lichen). The expected outcome is that national capacity support will lead to the development of evidence-based policies, including the setting of air quality norms and standards.

113. Some countries are more advanced than others with regard to establishing limit and target values and requirements to reduce emissions from pollutant sources, monitor emissions and concentrations, and determine exposures. The project will facilitate knowledge exchanges so that countries that lack experience can profit from the knowledge already acquired by more advanced ones, keeping in mind local and regional differences, including climatic conditions, income levels and consumption patterns.

114. As the sources of air pollution include traffic (especially diesel vehicles), industry, power plants, cooking and heating with solid fuels (e.g., coal, wood and crop waste), forest fires and open burning of municipal waste and agricultural residues, the project will engage with a wide variety of stakeholders involved in the collection of data and statistics and assessment and policy development. By making information available on open platforms and encouraging various stakeholders to contribute data and information, including citizen science programmes, local expertise will be brought into national, regional and global assessments of the air quality and health nexus. Air quality assessments would also help identify gaps in countries' capacity to address air pollution and identify new opportunities for cooperation.

115. Building upon lessons learned from earlier initiatives, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will match its comparative advantage in environmental assessment and strengthening of the science policy interface with the expertise of WHO in non-communicable diseases and the knowledge of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in urban issues, especially urban air quality and monitoring of urban conditions. This project aims at strong inter-agency collaboration and building of knowledge coalitions to help countries transition towards more integrated management of environmental and health issues in relation to air quality. In order to ensure a wide uptake of project results, knowledge will be made available on open platforms, including an exchange of data and best practices to promote South-South collaboration. The project preparation phase will include a comprehensive needs assessment and gap analysis to finalize the selection of six project countries.

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of selected countries in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen and use data and information to assess air pollution levels and provide support for the development of evidence-based policies on air quality and health	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)	
	General temporary assistance	30.0
	Consultants	145.0
	Travel	126.0
	Workshops/training	244.0
	Operating expenses	14.0
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Environment subprogramme 7 (Environment under review)	**Total**	**559.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Strengthened capacity of selected countries to regularly collect, monitor and report data, information and knowledge on the air quality and health nexus, and share these on open access platforms	(IA1.1) Strengthened evidence-based result: number of information sources and data flows established from countries and other stakeholders on air quality and health on the UNEP Live open access platform
(EA2) Enhanced capacity of stakeholders in selected countries in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region for evidence-based policymaking on air quality and health	(IA2.1) Policy result: four of the six countries have developed action plans and/or drafted legislation for evidence-based policymaking on air quality and health

Main activities

116. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Identification of data flows in beneficiary countries and making relevant information available on the UNEP Live open access knowledge platform;

(A1.2) Development/adjustment of a national reporting system for air quality and health that allows direct uploading of relevant data and information on open platforms and the generation of tailored reports for various reporting purposes to multiple audiences;

(A1.3) Targeted capacity support provided at the national level, including (online) training seminars and twinning arrangements, to national data centres, statistics offices and other data and information providers to implement the national reporting system toolkit, address knowledge gaps and strengthen the science policy interface at the national and regional levels;

(A2.1) Desk study assessing the knowledge base, identifying best practices in evidence-based policymaking and establishing a baseline for air quality and health policies and reporting for each of the six participating target countries;

(A2.2) Technical study combining environmental and health aspects of air quality by identifying interlinked concepts, policies and approaches through the application of semantic ontology, bringing together knowledge from both domains and identifying data and information gaps in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region to inform the national workshops;

(A2.3) Six national workshops in both Africa and the Asia-Pacific region to discuss the technical document with government officials and other stakeholders, aiming at drafting methodologies or action plans on the ways in which evidence derived from the

environmental air quality and health domains can be transmitted and translated into guidelines, targets and policies;

(A2.4) Advisory missions to assist target countries in further developing action plans and/or drafting legislation, thereby enhancing their capacity to provide support for evidence-based policymaking on air quality and health;

(A2.5) Two regional workshops (one in Africa and one in the Asia-Pacific region) on evidence-based policy development and integration of combined environmental air quality and health aspects in strategic and implementation plans, based on best practices and lessons learned from the beneficiary countries. Whereas the focus will be on the six project countries, the meeting will be opened up to other countries in the regions, pending (self) funding.

O. Enhancing capacities to manage information from corporate sustainability reporting in Latin American countries

United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ($545,000)

Background

117. Private sector engagement and transparency will be essential to truly achieve sustainable development, with sustainability reporting representing a potential tool with which to generate data and measure progress and the contribution of companies towards global development objectives. Within this context, sustainability reporting: (a) represents a means to enhance corporate transparency and ensure accountability and traceability; (b) can facilitate companies' ability to better analyse and understand the sustainability context in which they and their business partners operate and to manage financial and non-financial risks; and (c) serves as a tool to generate statistics and data that could help to measure and benchmark the contribution of companies towards globally agreed sustainable development goals.

118. The increased availability of quality information on corporate performance can enable Governments, investors, businesses and consumers as well as local communities to make more informed decisions and to better manage the transition towards a global sustainable economy, achieving a positive impact on society in the process. This information can also contribute to scientific assessment in the field of sustainable development.

119. Building on paragraph 47 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, four Governments started the Group of Friends of paragraph 47 to encourage companies to: (a) integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle; and (b) develop best practice models, considering, in particular, the needs of developing countries. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Reporting Initiative provide technical support to the Group. Since 2012, the Group has increased its membership to 10 countries.

120. UNEP, in close collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), will lead this project and will engage other partners, including the Global Reporting Initiative, representatives of other reporting frameworks, member Governments of the Group of Friends of paragraph 47, as well as other developing country Governments with relevant national experience in the field of sustainability reporting. Project beneficiaries will be member Governments of the Group of Friends and, more specifically, the project intervention will concentrate on four selected countries in one specific geographic region — Latin America.

121. The intervention will be targeted to one specific industrial sector. It is suggested that this will be the extractive sector (mining and metals, oil and gas), being that it is a very important sector for the economic development of the target countries owing to the significant environmental impacts associated with extractive activities and the opportunities that transparency and disclosure of corporate performance might generate in terms of strengthening the relationship with local communities. While sustainability reporting covers all pillars of sustainable development, this project will exclusively address the environmental dimension of sustainability reporting.

122. The experience from this project is expected to have a strong potential for replication in other aspects of sustainable development that are covered in sustainability reporting, and for dissemination in other countries and regions.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of Governments in four selected countries to analyse and consolidate environmental information disclosed in corporate sustainability reports	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)	
	Consultants	138.5
	Travel	126.0
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Environment subprogramme 6 (Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production)	Seminars/workshops	162.0
	Contractual services	100.0
	Operating expenses	18.5
	Total	**545.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of policymakers in the selected countries to develop national policies or guidelines that promote improved corporate sustainability reporting of environmental impacts	(IA1.1) Two of the four beneficiary countries have drafted new policies or sectoral guidelines, or developed a proposal to strengthen existing policies or sectoral guidelines to promote corporate sustainability reporting and the collection of data and indicators on the environmental impacts of businesses
(EA2) Improved technical capacities of the selected countries to regularly produce a consolidated overview of the selected sector's contribution to the environmental dimension of sustainable development	(IA2.1) Two of the four beneficiary countries are consolidating and monitoring data on the selected sector's contribution to sustainable development through information collected from corporate sustainability reports

Main activities

123. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Establish a steering committee led by UNEP, in close collaboration with ECLAC, and with the participation of government representatives of the beneficiary countries. The steering committee will monitor all activities throughout the project's implementation and validate all relevant decisions for the correct realization of the project;

(A1.2) Develop a "training of trainers" toolkit, which builds on existing Group of Friends of paragraph 47 evidence-based studies. The toolkit will provide guidance for (a) the formulation of policies and sectoral guidelines that enhance corporate sustainability reporting; and (b) the collection and management of data and indicators on the

environmental impacts of businesses. The steering committee (see activity A1.1) will validate the toolkit upon completion;

(A1.3) Organize a regional capacity-building workshop aimed at policymakers in selected countries. The regional workshop will be based on the "training of trainers" toolkit (activity A1.2);

(A1.4) Provide support for the national process of elaboration of one policy or one sectoral guideline that enhances corporate sustainability reporting in the beneficiary countries through one launching and one concluding workshop. The support provided by the project to national processes will be based on an agreed work plan and will be coordinated through the beneficiaries of the capacity-building workshop (activity A.1.3) as well as governmental members and advisers to the project steering committee (see activity A1.1);

(A2.1) Provide support for the design and development of a database for the collection and management of data and indicators on the environmental impacts of businesses, emerging from the analysis of companies' sustainability reports, and train local government officials to operate it. The solutions will have to be tailored to apply appropriate information to the specific policies or sectoral guidelines developed under activity A1.4;

(A2.2) Organize two national workshops for business intermediaries (chambers of commerce, industrial associations, sectoral regulators, concerned ministries and sustainability leaders of the business community) in each of the target countries. During these workshops, the reporting requirements resulting from policies and guidelines developed under activity A1.4 will be explained and concrete instructions on the quality of information that will need to be reported will be provided, as well as hands-on instructions on the use of the database so that companies have a good understanding of the type and level of information they will be expected to provide;

(A2.3) Provide assistance to the beneficiary countries in consolidating data on the environmental impacts of businesses in the database developed in activity A2.1;

(A2.4) Develop a final report that will summarize results of the project in the beneficiary countries, including lessons learned and concrete recommendations for further improvement of similar sustainability information monitoring initiatives.

P. Sustainable, inclusive and evidence-based national urban policies in selected Arab States

United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ($451,000)

Background

124. Current urbanization in the Arab States region is driven by economic development, migration to oil-rich countries, drought and conflicts. From 1970 to 2010, the urban population of the Arab States region more than quadrupled and is set to more than double again over the next 40 years. The case for national urban policies relates in part to the heightened risks of cities getting locked into dysfunctional and damaging patterns of urban development by neglecting to account for rapid growth. This includes urban sprawl, informal settlements, squalid living conditions, inefficient infrastructure, vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. Such risks are particularly

high in Arab States' cities where urbanization is intense. Furthermore, policies are often only weakly informed by research-based evidence owing to inadequate tools, frameworks and procedures, and weak participation of stakeholders in the policy process. The project intends to address these challenges by strengthening the policymaking capacities of three selected Arab States in national urban policies, with a particular focus on the evidence-based and accountability aspects.

125. The national urban policy is a key instrument to build and spatially organize a system of cities within the national territory that maximizes the benefits of urbanization, while reducing inequalities and mitigating potential adverse externalities. A progressive national urban policy also provides an overarching coordinating framework to rally the various actors of urbanization (national and local authorities, professionals, academia and civil society organizations) for a common vision. The new generation of national urban policies supported by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) aims at reasserting urban space and territoriality and promoting the positive role of urbanization in national socioeconomic development.

126. UN-Habitat has developed an innovative national urban policy framework to provide support to countries throughout the whole public policy cycle (diagnosis, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) and to promote a participatory and inclusive approach in policymaking. The project will benefit from these recent ongoing initiatives and from the partners' engagement in the region, through experience exchanges, documentation and possible South-South cooperation.

127. UN-Habitat, through its Urban Planning and Design Branch (Nairobi) and its Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States (Cairo), is the main implementing entity of the project. Collaboration and partnerships will be established through: (a) the ministries of municipalities/ local development of the three selected countries; (b) the Council of Ministers of Housing and Urban Development of the League of Arab States; (c) the Arab Urban Development Institute of the Arab Towns Organization; and (d) the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Specific attention will be paid and efforts made during project implementation to promote a participatory approach in policymaking that will value the diversity among women and men, and include youth and vulnerable groups. The ministries and local authorities of the three selected countries will be the primary beneficiaries of the project. Regional networks and coordinating bodies will play a key role in preparing the project scale-up and advancing the sustainable urban development agenda of the United Nations in the lead-up to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in 2016.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen policymaking capacities in three selected Arab States to guide the development of sustainable, inclusive and evidence-based national urban policies	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Human Settlements subprogramme 2 (Urban planning and design)	General temporary assistance 22.5 Consultants 142.0 Travel 52.0 Contractual services 129.0 Operating expenses 2.0 Seminars, workshops 103.5 **Total 451.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced technical and institutional capacities of national, subnational and local Governments to strengthen their national urban policymaking processes	(IA1.1) At least two countries have utilized the national urban policy tools, frameworks and procedures to guide and improve their national urban policymaking process
(EA2) Increased awareness of countries in the region about tools, frameworks, procedures and best practices in national urban policymaking	(IA2.1) Increased number of countries in the region that have applied the tools, frameworks and procedures from the project to guide or improve their national urban policymaking process
	(IA2.2) At least 70 per cent of participants in the regional dialogue who have confirmed enhanced awareness about best practices in national urban policymaking

Main activities

128. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Review existing national urban policies in the three selected countries, including implementation, monitoring and evaluation frameworks (if any), and adapt existing national urban policy tools, frameworks and procedures developed by UN-Habitat to the national contexts;

(A1.2) Organize one sensitization workshop in each selected country, in partnership with national, regional and local Governments, academia, professional associations, civil society organizations and the private sector, to present and validate the national urban policymaking approach, frameworks and procedures, and to facilitate the creation of a community of practices;

(A1.3) Provide targeted advisory services to the selected countries to guide or improve the national urban policymaking process, with a particular focus on the monitoring and evaluation stages;

(A1.4) Organize "training of trainers" sessions for local academic/training institutions in each selected country, in partnership with a regional partner, on the use of national urban policy tools, frameworks and procedures, with a particular focus on the monitoring and evaluation stages;

(A1.5) Conduct tailored training (including on the job training and interactive workshops) in each selected country, with support provided by local academic/ training institutions (trained trainers), to disseminate the skills, knowledge and expertise within national, regional and local Governments, academia, civil society organizations and the private sector;

(A2.1) Document the experience, lessons learned and project outcomes, with support provided by a regional partner, for wider regional action learning (publications in English and Arabic to be easily accessible to relevant target groups);

(A2.2) Organize one regional dialogue, with representatives from the selected countries and at least three other countries in the region, ESCWA, the League of Arab States and other

relevant regional partners, to facilitate policy transfer and exchanges of knowledge, experiences and practices.

Q. Accountability systems for measuring, monitoring and reporting on sustainable city policies in Latin America

United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ($453,000)

Background

129. This project will provide an operational platform for South-South cooperation and a set of virtual tools to facilitate and systematize city-to-city cooperation and knowledge exchange among peers from government, private sector and civil society, including academic institutions and non-governmental organizations, in the field of accountability in urban governance, urban management and planning within the framework of the implementation of urban policies. The project will focus on how cities, including civil society, can improve accountability within the field of sustainability. It will not focus on a particular urban policy but on how to improve accountability and promote participatory policymaking. Latin America is being proposed as the target region because it is the most urbanized among developing regions, with many countries having already surpassed the rate of 80 per cent of the population living in cities and towns. Latin American countries also have local governments that enjoy a significant degree of autonomy to determine and decide on their administration, define their municipal fiscal policies and budget and elect their mayors and municipal councils. This has generated a great deal of innovation and scaled solutions and triggered city-to-city knowledge exchange, representing an interesting model of South-South cooperation for the project.

130. Despite these innovative practices and lessons, there is a deficit of accountability in urbanization in Latin America. Urbanization has been accompanied by industrialization and growth but also by increasing inequalities and sharp income disparities, leading to social and spatial exclusion of many poor communities and social groups from participation in the management of their cities. While winds of democratization swept the region during the 1980s and 1990s, they have yet to produce the level of social accountability, performance management and results-based accountability that are desirable at the local government/city/ municipal level, given the existence of widespread local electoral processes and increasing civil society mobilization.

131. The project will help to address the gap in accountability measurement tools and capacities, focusing on six cities in the region. The project will facilitate the development of accountability systems and initiatives that can be shared by different cities, nurturing common values and a culture of greater transparency and accountability that are part and parcel of the sustainable city framework for the achievement of the sustainable development goals in cities. It has three components: (a) the urban accountability academy; (c) its online component, the online urban accountability academy; and (c) city accountability labs.

132. The urban accountability academy is an intensive, practical and problem-solving-oriented programme on accountability and sustainability. UN-Habitat has extensive experience in running academies, which are defined as a series of learning activities such as workshops, networking, mentoring and distance learning. The Academy will be run by UN-Habitat staff together with local academic and training partners. It will take place in a city in Latin America that is a leader in best practices in accountability and sustainability. The target audience is city officials.

133. The city accountability labs are interactive and experimental working sessions where city stakeholders from the local government, private sector and civil society discuss, design and share solutions and best practices relating to accountability. The city labs will be held in each participating city. The labs will also discuss indicators for monitoring public policies on sustainability. The aim is to develop solutions for policy assessment, definition of indicators and monitoring and reporting. Local partners will be responsible for organizing the city labs with technical support from UN-Habitat and ECLAC.

134. The urban accountability academy and the city accountability labs will be connected to an easily accessible online learning platform: the online urban accountability academy. It will contain learning resources for city stakeholders and will be a platform for knowledge and best practice exchange among the stakeholders of different cities. Discussion forums will be hosted prior to the city accountability labs and city stakeholders will be able to post proposals for accountability and for indicators.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen accountability systems in cities in Latin America and enable monitoring of local government policies for achieving sustainable cities goals	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Human settlements subprogramme 7 (Research and capacity development)	General temporary assistance 22.0 Consultants 174.6 Travel 92.5 Contractual services 56.9 Seminars, workshops 95.0 Operating expenses 12.0 **Total 453.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of local government officials and institutions in selected cities in the Latin American region to design and implement accountability initiatives in urban management and planning for sustainable cities	(IA1.1) 80 per cent of trained local government officials confirm increased knowledge of accountability
(EA2) Improved capacity of city stakeholders to monitor the performance of urban management and planning for sustainable cities	(IA2.1) Four cities put in place plans to monitor the performance of public policies in the area of sustainability
	(IA2.2) Five new community-citizen accountability monitoring systems are proposed and plans are made for their installation in selected cities
(EA3) Enhanced knowledge of Latin American city stakeholders of best practices in urban management and planning accountability systems	(IA3.1) 70 city stakeholders access best practices and knowledge on accountability through the online urban accountability academy
	(IA3.2) 60 city-to-city or city-to-United Nations agency exchanges have taken place through the online urban accountability academy

Main activities

135. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize one regional expert group meeting on accountability for sustainable cities policies is developed and implemented. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss best practices and to agree on the components of the project. The best practices will feed into activity A3.1 and will also inform the design of the other programme components;

(A1.2) Develop training packs addressing training needs and knowledge gaps of different target groups in respect of accountability in urban management for sustainable cities after a training needs assessment is carried out. The training packs will be used for the urban accountability academy and made freely available online;

(A1.3) Develop and implement one training of trainers workshop for local and national training institutions;

(A1.4) Local training institutions, in partnership with UN-Habitat and other participating United Nations agencies, organize urban accountability academy for city officials. The academy will be on themes of sustainability and accountability;

(A2.1) Prepare proposals for promoting social accountability and civic engagement and submit them to participating cities for discussion in six city accountability labs (one per city). The online urban accountability academy will be used as platform for generating such proposals collaboratively;

(A2.2) Develop indicators to monitor and report on public accountability in urban management for sustainable cities. The indicators will be discussed and refined with the stakeholders in city accountability labs;

(A2.3) Use the online urban accountability academy a platform for generating proposals by community-based and private-sector institutions for monitoring accountability. The proposals will subsequently be discussed and refined in city accountability labs with the stakeholders;

(A3.1) Undertake research on accountability in local governments for sustainable cities and best practices, the results of which will be disseminated through the online urban accountability academy;

(A3.2) Establish an online urban accountability academy for greater availability of information and learning resources and for knowledge exchange;

(A3.3) Design, record and disseminate at least three online urban lectures on accountability for sustainable cities. The purpose of these lectures is to bring important aspects of accountability and sustainability to the attention of participating cities;

(A3.4) Organize four follow-up meetings in different participating cities at the end of the project. These meetings will focus on project evaluation, technical assistance to the cities and ensuring continuous communication and collaboration among the different stakeholders.

R. Evidence-based policies for improved community safety in Latin American and African cities

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme ($801,000)

Background

136. Across the globe, there is increased recognition, including within the context of the post-2015 development agenda process, that peaceful, safe, non-violent and inclusive societies based on respect for human rights are a cornerstone of, and indeed a primary outcome of, sustainable development. In many urban areas, high rates of crime and violence are undermining growth and impeding social development, particularly affecting the poor. Urban areas tend to have higher rates of homicide than rural areas, and cities tend to be home to a multitude of risk factors for crime and violence, including high levels of income inequality, the potential for anonymity within a dense population and the existence of violent gangs or organized criminal groups. Experience shows that crime prevention and safety strategies, policies and programmes should be based on a broad, multidisciplinary understanding of crime and violence and their multiple causes, and should consider promising practices as well as practices that have already proven to achieve positive results.

137. UNODC and UN-Habitat have therefore supported Member States in conducting victimization surveys and local safety audits, with UNODC focusing on complementing data from the criminal justice system, in particular police crime statistics, and UN-Habitat focusing on enhancing the capacity of local governments to coordinate local crime prevention strategies in the context of urban planning, management and governance.

138. Although detailed knowledge and technical guidance exist on the collection and analysis of police-recorded crime data, there is limited information and guidance on how data generated from participatory crime diagnosis can inform crime prevention and community safety policies and programmes at the municipal level. In particular, local safety audits are a very useful tool to examine not only levels of crime and victimization, but also their linkages with socioeconomic factors and existing resources for prevention activities, as well as the wider political and institutional context in which crime occurs.

139. The capacities of local governments to collect and use data on crime and safety are low in both Latin America and Africa, largely owing to the centralized nature of security policies and criminal justice systems. The project aims to fill this gap by helping local authorities to build information collection and monitoring capacity and providing them with an overview of approaches and issues connected to data analysis to inform evidence-based policies for prevention in urban spaces. It ultimately seeks to promote the development and implementation of crime prevention and community safety policies and programmes that take into account recent methodological advances in addressing crime and victimization challenges in urban areas, while at the same time enhancing crime and violence monitoring capacities. For the sake of cost efficiency and to avoid overburdening local data collection, management and analysis bodies, the project will draw to the greatest extent possible on existing complementary data generating processes.

140. Activities under this project will focus on three cities. Should any savings be generated during project implementation, efforts will be made to share the lessons learned at the national or regional level.

141. All activities will be coordinated and implemented by UNODC offices in two countries of Latin America and one UN-Habitat office in Africa, with support and expert advice provided by the

thematic units at UNODC headquarters in Vienna and UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi. Cooperation will be established between UNODC and UN-Habitat in the selected cities in Latin America and between UN-Habitat and the relevant UNODC office(s) in Africa. In addition, both organizations will work together in the complementary study visit and the workshop as detailed in relevant sections below.

Objective of the Organization: To support local authorities in three selected cities in Latin America and Africa to develop, in consultation with civil society, evidence-based crime prevention and community safety policies/plans and monitoring frameworks that address multi-causal factors of violence and crime	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice subprogramme 5 (Justice)	General temporary assistance 53.4 Consultants 456.5 Study tour 10.0 Travel 70.0 Contractual services 50.0 Training 153.6 Equipment 7.5 **Total 801.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced capacities of local authorities and civil society in three pilot cities to collect, analyse and utilize crime and victimization data to formulate and adopt crime prevention and community safety policies and programmes, using a participatory approach	(IA1.1) Number of local evidence-based and comprehensive crime prevention and community safety plans or policies that use a participatory approach, adopted or improved in each city
(EA2) Improved capacity of selected cities in Latin America and Africa to measure progress towards achieving security, safety-related development targets at local level	(IA2.1) Number of monitoring frameworks with relevant crime- and safety-related indicators adopted for crime prevention and community safety policies/plans in each of the cities covered by the project (IA2.2) 80 per cent of trained government officers and other relevant stakeholders responding to a post-event questionnaire confirm an increased capacity to measure progress towards achieving local security and safety-related development targets

Main activities

142. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Identify the three cities (two in Latin America and one in Africa) and conduct a scoping mission to each city to diagnose urban crime and victimization challenges and identify relevant existing policies, data collection tools, monitoring systems and capacities to address crime and victimization challenges;

(A1.2) Conduct local safety audits in each of the three cities, with clear performance indicators. The audits will include missions by experts, under the supervision and

guidance of United Nations staff, and consultation meetings involving relevant local stakeholders with the aim of collecting and analysing crime and safety data and information;

(A1.3) Conduct advisory missions to the target cities to provide expert advice on developing new crime prevention and local safety policies, or reviewing and updating existing ones;

(A1.4) Organize a study tour to Austria for local crime prevention practitioners involved in the project to gain a better understanding of community-based crime prevention policies, plans and programmes by visiting counterparts in other cities. The study tour will take place before the workshop (see activity A1.5) to make efficient use of funds;

(A1.5) Facilitate a workshop on local crime data analysis, crime prevention and community safety policy development. The workshop will focus on sharing experiences from practitioners in the three cities of the project, as well from other experts in the field of urban security and safety, including from relevant international organizations, academia and civil society;

(A2.1) Develop a monitoring framework for the crime prevention and community safety plans/policies of three cities (two in Latin America and one in Africa);

(A2.2) Facilitate one training session and one follow-up workshop for municipal officials and local partners (universities, non-governmental organizations) in each selected city, in partnership with local academic/training institutions, on the use of the monitoring tools, frameworks and procedures and the implementation of security policies, using a participatory approach;

(A2.3) Prepare a United Nations technical guidance tool on comprehensive local/urban crime data analysis for evidence-based crime prevention and community safety policy development, focusing on good practices in linking data collection and analysis with policy formulation. This tool will be disseminated through the UNODC and UN-Habitat websites and in relevant meetings/activities that may be organized after the completion of the project;

(A2.4) Develop an accountability strategy that includes an interactive website, online resource facility or portal for the city that facilitates reporting and related materials easily accessible to relevant target groups.

S. Aligning the post-2015 agenda with planning frameworks in Africa

Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ($726,000)

Background

143. African countries have had a long history and experience of development planning. Indeed, for some countries like Ghana, Ethiopia and Nigeria, development planning can be traced to the early 1940s. Most plans aimed to structurally transform the largely agrarian, commodity-driven and low-productivity economies into more integrated, productive and industrial ones. Following a hiatus in planning during the structural adjustment period, planning experienced a resurgence in the late 1990s with the introduction of poverty reduction strategies and, subsequently, the Millennium Development Goals. However, compared to Asian countries, development planning in Africa has not

been associated with structural transformation despite rapid growth in the past decade. The reasons for this outcome are many and include discontinuities and distractions in plan implementation, dysfunctional institutional architectures, weak links between resource allocation and development priorities, overdependence on external resources and weak links between national and subnational planning and implementation processes. One important factor is weak institutional and individual capacities in plan design, implementation and follow-up. While the era of the Millennium Development Goals was associated with some initiatives to integrate the structural transformation agenda in national development plans, such efforts did not address the underlying capacity constraints in planning units.

144. Cognizant of these capacity gaps, the Economic Commission for Africa developed a network of development planners in 2011 and used this platform as a basis for strengthening capacities of member States to integrate the Millennium Development Goals in national planning frameworks. This initiative has been plagued by funding shortfalls. However, following the repositioning of the Commission in 2013, the institution has attracted some funding to revive the network of planners. This development is timely since the network can serve as a platform to catalyse successful capacity-building pilot projects. Strengthening planning capacities will be particularly important in the context of the next global development agenda, which will invariably inform development planning frameworks in terms of plan design and policy formulation. The challenge of designing development frameworks that are consistent with the three dimensions of sustainability cannot be underestimated. Yet, success in integrating these dimensions is critical for sustaining growth and achieving inclusive and sustainable development. These elements are in turn at the core of Africa's agenda for structural transformation as articulated in Agenda 2063 and the Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda.

145. Evidence from countries that have structurally transformed their economies suggests that, while many have succeeded in reducing poverty, only a few have narrowed income inequalities and even fewer have addressed other dimensions of inequality (e.g., gender and spatial inequalities).

146. The objective of this project is to assist countries in operationalizing the sustainable development goals by supporting them in developing plans and policies that are consistent with those goals. A critical marker of success will be the extent to which such plans reduce poverty and inequality while managing the environmental deficits associated with growth. The project seeks to ensure that national development frameworks take into account key elements of an inclusive and sustainable transformation agenda, such as value addition, job creation, poverty reduction and the narrowing of inequalities. These issues have taken centre stage in the post-2015 agenda, particularly from the perspective of the Africa region.

147. A total of five countries will be selected for this project on the basis of the following criteria:

(a) Geographic representation of each of the five subregions;

(b) Linguistic representation, taking into account Francophone, Anglophone and Lusophone countries;

(c) Representation in the sample, to the extent possible, of countries with special needs (i.e., least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States).

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen African countries' policymaking capacity for integrating the goals, targets and indicators of the post-2015 development agenda into their national development frameworks	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 1 (Macroeconomic policy)	General temporary assistance 60.0 Consultants 140.0 Travel of staff 185.0 Contractual services 35.0 Equipment 5.0 Workshops/training 301.0 **Total 726.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced technical and analytical capacities of central planning agencies in selected countries to integrate the priorities of the sustainable development goals/post-2015 development agenda into the design of national planning frameworks	(IA1.1) At least 80 per cent of trained participants confirm increased awareness of the content of the sustainable development goals and their relevance to their development priorities (IA1.2) The number of priority areas and development indicators in national planning frameworks that relate to the sustainable development goals/post-2015 development agenda increase by at least 10 per cent in each target country
(EA2) Enhanced technical and analytical capacities of policymakers in selected countries to formulate policies in line with the priorities of the sustainable development goals/post-2015 development agenda	(IA2.1) Policies and/or programmes related to the sustainable development goals/post-2015 development agenda are initiated or strengthened in three of the five target countries

Main activities

148. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop a toolkit providing a checklist and best practices on how to integrate new and complex development goals such as inclusive structural transformation into planning frameworks. This activity will be conducted with the assistance of a consultant;

(A1.2) Conduct five national workshops on aligning sustainable development goals with national planning frameworks, bringing together representatives from central planning agencies, ministries of finance and other key ministries, including health, education and water and sanitation. The objective of the workshops will be to ensure a common understanding of the sustainable development goals and to adopt a methodology for integrating the goals into national planning frameworks. The workshops will serve as an opportunity to test the toolkit;

(A1.3) Conduct follow-up advisory missions to support the five countries in developing national planning frameworks to assess progress in the integration process;

(A1.4) Conduct a study tour for policymakers, in collaboration with ESCAP, to learn from the Asian experience in planning and aligning the sustainable development goals with national plans. The tour will include one policymaker from each of the pilot countries;

(A1.5) On the basis of feedback from the above activities, finalize and disseminate the toolkit online to the ECA network of development planners. A consultant will be engaged to facilitate and moderate online queries and discussions on the tool;

(A2.1) To strengthen the capacities of member States to develop policies consistent with the achievement of the sustainable development goals, conduct two regional training workshops on the use of policy simulation tools. The training will involve sharing country experiences and strengthening capacities for policy simulation and scenario building. ECA has already developed a knowledge product on lesson learning in development planning, which will be used as a background document for the workshops. ECA will partner with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to conduct the training;

(A2.2) To complement the training, conduct follow-up advisory missions to support policymakers in applying the tools in their daily work and in developing policies and programmes in line with the post-2015 development agenda.

T. Accountability frameworks and evidence-based policies for development planning in Africa

Economic Commission for Africa ($625,000)

Background

149. The macroeconomic reforms that many African countries have undertaken in recent years have certainly produced positive results, notably fiscal balance, low inflation and stable exchange rates, which are prerequisites for long-term economic and social development. However, a long-term, sustained economic development strategy will further require a policy mix targeting economy-wide reallocation of resources, accelerated growth in productivity and higher trade and investment rates. Inclusive growth and development will require structural transformation of the African economies, which implies modernization, industrialization and a change from economies that are based on subsistence agriculture and primary commodities to ones that are fuelled more by manufacturing and value addition.

150. The main objective of the project is to design a regional strategy to strengthen the capacity of African national planning institutions to integrate accountability frameworks and evidence-based policies in their development planning processes, and to compile and produce the data necessary to inform and support development planning for structural transformation. In this context, accountability denotes the obligation of those entrusted with the responsibility of delivering public goods, resources and services to account for their actions to those for whom these goods and services are intended and to those who have provided the wherewithal to secure them.

151. This project is consistent with the structural transformation objective pursued by the Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Its overall goal is to ensure that Africa owns, plans, manages and ultimately funds its own development. Accomplishing this requires greater ownership by national planners of the African development agenda; coherence and coordination between national and continental planning institutions; efficient implementation by building on the existing continental and national-level

institutions; curbing illicit finance flows; and engaging domestic resource mobilization as a means of financing the African vision. It also requires a clear vision, committed leadership coherent strategies and long-term planning frameworks. The bedrock of this process is an evidence-based and data-driven policymaking approach that relies on building credible accountability frameworks into the planning process, with specific milestones and targets that can be verified, measured, and monitored. Potential synergies between the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and other ECA divisions, particularly the Macroeconomic Policy Division and the African Centre for Statistics, have been identified and will be taken into account in the project.

152. The project will be implemented in five phases: (a) assessment of the current landscape of development planning in the target countries; (b) development of a strategy for integrating accountability and evidence-based policies in development planning, to be piloted in five countries; (c) design of national action plans consistent with the accountability strategy; (d) implementation of the national action plans; and (e) monitoring and evaluation of the programme. It is expected that the project will be executed with the active participation of the African Centre for Statistics for the statistics aspects, in order to take advantage of the comparative advantage of ECA in that area, and the Macroeconomic Policy Division for the planning aspects. The fifth phase of the project will involve a review of the implementation of the accountability strategy, capturing key achievements, lessons and best practices that will inform the development of knowledge products and the overall scaling up to countries, and will be conducted through the scheduled advisory services missions.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of African national planning institutions to integrate accountability frameworks and evidence-based policies in their development planning processes, and to compile and produce the data necessary to inform and support development planning for structural transformation	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 8 (Development planning and administration)	General temporary assistance 58.0 Consultants 267.5 Travel 37.5 Operating expenses 67.0 Equipment 140.0 Workshops/training 55.0 **Total 625.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Strengthened capacity of five African countries to develop, adopt and implement a national strategy for integration of accountability frameworks and an evidence-based policymaking approach in development planning	(IA1.1) A national strategy for integration of accountability frameworks and an evidence-based policymaking approach in development planning is validated and adopted by each pilot country
(EA2) Strengthened national capacities of five African countries to compile, produce and use data in assessing progress towards the inclusive and equitable growth objective of the structural transformation agenda, consistent with the post-2015 development agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063	(IA2.1) At least five African countries develop strategies to strengthen the capacities of their national statistical institutions to compile and produce data necessary for assessing progress towards the inclusive and equitable growth objective of the structural transformation agenda

(IA2.2) At least five African countries use data on monitoring progress towards inclusive growth to develop accountability frameworks as part of their national strategic planning processes

Main activities

153. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop five case studies of African countries assessing the status and progress of their national planning processes, including the existing monitoring and evaluation frameworks, if any, to gauge entry points for integration of accountability and evidence-based policymaking approaches;

(A1.2) Organize a high-level capacity-building workshop for senior planning and statistics officers of the five pilot countries, to validate and adopt a strategy for integrating accountability into development planning;

(A1.3) Develop a set of tools (toolkit) containing guidelines and best practices for the development and strengthening of accountability in development planning. The toolkit will include guidelines for countries to develop their national implementation strategies;

(A1.4) Organize five capacity-building advisory missions to five selected African countries, with consultants and technical staff, to assist national planning institutions in strengthening accountability mechanisms in national planning;

(A1.5) Develop a handbook on integrating accountability and evidence-based policy-making in development planning in Africa based on the project results and lessons learned, with a view to including these in the Agenda 2063 and post-2015 Common African Position processes;

(A2.1) Develop five case studies of African countries assessing the status and progress of their statistical institutions, including an evaluation of the ability of the selected statistical institutions to compile and produce the data necessary to monitor accountability and evidence-base policymaking in planning processes;

(A2.2) Develop a set of tools (toolkit) containing guidelines and best practices for the development and strengthening of the capacities of national statistical institutions to collect and produce data necessary to assess and monitor accountability in national development planning;

(A2.3) Organize five capacity-building advisory missions to five selected African countries, to assist in strengthening the capacity of national statistical institutions to compile and produce the data necessary to implement the regional strategy for accountability in national development planning;

(A2.4) Strengthen the analytical and prospective capacity of the national statistics institutions in the five pilot countries by enhancing their information and technology capabilities and providing training for the technical staff to facilitate better data collection and analysis in support of decision-making and monitoring of transparency and accountability;

(A2.5) Strengthen the planning, programming, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation capacities of the national planning institutions in the five countries by enhancing their

information and technology capabilities and analytical skills for evidence-based planning and decision-making.

U. Better monitoring of social protection in Africa

Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ($550,000)

Background

154. Social protection has gained momentum in Africa in recent years as part of the policy repertoire to address vulnerability manifested in the form of high poverty and inequality levels among the population. In the post-2015 development agenda, social protection is acknowledged as a critical tenet for social and economic development, especially in terms of addressing various forms of vulnerabilities and ensuring the inclusion of all groups of population in the development process. In 2012, ECA, the International Labour Organization, UNCTAD, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Children's Fund jointly observed that social protection programmes that tackle multiple dimensions of poverty and deprivation (decent work, education, health care, food security, income security) can be a powerful tool in the battle against poverty and inequality.

155. Estimates by the World Bank postulate that social protection interventions could reduce the total poverty head-count rate by 5 to 10 percentage points. However, the World Bank has stressed that, while many African countries are in the process of introducing and implementing social protection schemes, a large share of these programmes remain fragmented and poorly targeted. The availability of data on existing social protection and labour programmes and systems, which is extremely uneven, remains a major constraint, particularly in fragile States and low-income contexts, and especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

156. Available evidence suggests that many African countries need to redouble their efforts in this domain by deliberately scaling up policy interventions and investments in social protection programmes to ensure significant poverty reduction and shared prosperity.

157. Given that poverty in Africa is highly feminized and also afflicts the majority of youth, social protection policy frameworks and programmes must be developed from a gender perspective and address the social as well as the economic vulnerabilities of young people. The range of interventions needs to be broadened from cash transfers, which typically provide economic protection in response to economic risks and livelihood vulnerability, to include various forms of social protection such as social services and active labour-market policies. In this context, developing a robust and interactive mechanism for the monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes in Africa is one of the main building blocks of sustained and inclusive development.

158. This project falls at the centre of the normative and analytical work of ECA, as it represents an enhancement of the support given to Member States in generating knowledge for improved policies geared towards the structural transformation of Africa. Its results will fill an important gap in the data and information available on social investments in the continent. Moreover, it will be able to benefit from lessons learned from the ECLAC initiative to establish a regional database on investment in social protection.

159. The project will engage five African countries with different social protection systems to better capture the heterogeneous nature of social policies and programmes and the varying needs that

stem from these diverse realities. The activities will be implemented in coordination with the subregional offices, Capacity Development Division and Macroeconomic Policy Division of ECA. Synergies will be established in the development of case studies and field activities, including the ECA country profiles. Complementary funding will be sought to expand this initiative beyond the initial scope of five countries, to enhance continental representation.

Objective of the Organization: To increase the capacity of selected African countries to monitor investments in social protection policies and programmes and to increase the accountability of member States to set and report on targets for social protection	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)	
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social development in Africa subprogramme 1 (Macroeconomic policy), subprogramme 5 (Capacity development) and subprogramme 9 (Social development policy); Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 5 (Social development and equality)	Consultants	163.0
	Expert group meetings	70.0
	Travel	122.0
	Contractual services	35.0
	Workshops/training	160.0
	Total	**550.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of selected member States to identify, measure and analyse comprehensive knowledge, which includes data as well as qualitative assessments, on investments in social protection policies and programmes	(IA1.1) At least 50 experts from participating countries confirm increased knowledge to identify, measure and analyse investments in social protection policies and programmes
(EA2) Enhanced technical capacities of ECA member States to develop comprehensive reports on investments in social protection	(IA2.1) By the end of the project, 10 countries, on the basis of the project's guidelines, have improved their reporting on investments in social protection policies and programmes

Main activities

160. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize a regional expert group meeting, with the participation of experts on social protection budgeting from Governments, United Nations entities and research institutions from Africa, to adapt the framework that was developed by ECLAC to the African context and to initiate coordination for project implementation;

(A1.2) Develop a toolkit and guidelines on how to measure and report on investments in social protection in Africa that will help in disseminating the results of the project;

(A1.3) Organize a regional training workshop with five national consultants/advisers from each country to build national expertise on investment in social protection policies and programmes on the basis of the toolkit and guidelines developed in activity A1.2;

(A1.4) Organize five national workshops on identification, analysis and measurement of investments in social protection policies and programmes, for which the 10 national consultants will act as resource persons;

(A2.1) Organize five advisory services (one in each country) to work with at least five national experts from the ministries of finance and social development in each country (for a total of 50) on the national reports on investments in social protection policies and programmes;

(A2.2) Publish five national reports on investments in social protection, containing analysis of the conceptual framework developed under this project, a landscape analysis of the social protection policies and programmes currently under implementation in member States and trends in investments in each country;

(A2.3) Produce a regional analytical report entitled "Social protection policies and programmes in Africa: achieving inclusive development", which will analyse trends investments in social protection and develop policy recommendations on the role of social protection policies and programmes in addressing development challenges for specific population groups with increased vulnerabilities on the basis of the proposed conceptual framework;

(A2.4) Organize a regional workshop to take stock of lessons learned and exchange experiences in the analysis and measurement of investments in social protection policies and programmes and to share the reports generated. This will include experts from the participating countries as well as from additional countries that demonstrate interest in enhancing their capacity to monitor investments in social protection.

V. Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in Caucasus and Central Asian countries

Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ($501,000)

Background

161. Forests play an essential role in achieving sustainable development, a green economy and poverty eradication. They are the key land ecosystem ensuring the preservation of biodiversity and an important source of renewable materials. Countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus face serious challenges that have hampered proper reporting on the state of their forests. Data are often not available; measurements and collection of data are difficult and require capacity that is currently missing. Policymakers and decision makers are not always aware of the importance of information for the effective implementation of sustainable forest management. Forestry officers require training and capacity-building in order to be able to collect and process the data needed to assess the state and trends of sustainable forest management in their country.

162. Up until now, efforts at the global and pan-European levels to assess the sustainability of forest management at the national level have used rather simple methods and delivered limited results for a number of reasons, including the difficulty of defining sustainability in quantified objective ways and the diversity of country situations, which make it difficult to establish comparable norms which can be applied in all countries. On the basis of the results and experiences acquired through past assessments, since 2011 ECE and FAO have been developing, with national and international experts, a new method to assess the sustainability of forest management in ECE member States.

The System for Evaluation of the Management of Forests reports on the sustainability of forest management at the pan-European level. This method seeks to provide a scientific and transparent system of accountability and will be applied during the project.

163. The project will help countries to respond to key capacity gaps and overcome these development challenges by providing knowledge, capacity-building, training materials and advisory services for: (a) defining the scope of the national reporting system and the information that is needed and appropriate for the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national level; (b) collecting relevant data to assess the implementation of policies related to sustainable forest management; (c) developing a national accountability system on the basis of the data collected; and (d) reporting accordingly and developing national actions to address any shortcomings identified by the system.

164. The target groups will be officials from ministries responsible for forestry and related institutions. The project will primarily develop capacities at a national level. This will be achieved through tailored training workshops based on the content used at a national level. The eight target countries will represent either forest-poor countries where forest and land degradation pose serious environmental challenges, or forest-rich countries where forests are completely neglected regardless of their potential to provide social, environmental and economic benefits and that have recognized the need for capacity-building activities on forests.

165. The ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will be responsible for leading the project.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the national capacity of countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia to develop accountability systems for sustainable forest management	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)	
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic development in Europe subprogramme 7 (Forestry and timber)	General temporary assistance	25.6
	Consultants	142.0
	Travel	95.0
	Contractual services	28.0
	Seminars, workshops	210.4
	Total	**501.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced national capacity to collect data and measure sustainable forest management	(IA1.1) At least six countries out of eight report sustainable forest management data
	(IA1.2) 80 per cent of trained officials confirm an increased capacity to collect data and measure sustainable forest management
(EA2) Enhanced national capacity to develop national reporting and accountability systems for sustainable forest management	(IA2.1) At least four out of eight countries have developed national forest management reporting/accountability systems

Main activities

166. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop training modules and training material on defining the scope of the national reporting system, collecting data, measuring and assessing sustainable forest management and developing a reliable system for the collection of sustainable forest management data;

(A1.2) Organize a regional inception workshop focused on data collection and analysis and the System for Evaluation of the Management of Forests; conduct a one-day study tour to demonstrate how forest monitoring works at the country level and to facilitate knowledge sharing among the participating countries;

(A1.3) Organize eight workshops/sessions for national officers in the relevant areas on collecting data for participatory development of the accountability systems;

(A2.1) Organize eight national workshops to initiate development of national accountability systems. At each workshop, 25 participants from relevant ministries and organizations will be trained in developing a national system of indicators for monitoring sustainable forest management, starting from data collection and analysis;

(A2.2) Eight advisory missions to support the development and adoption of national accountability systems for sustainable forest management;

(A2.3) Conduct a regional forest reporting workshop to share national lessons learned and formulate recommendations for follow-up at the national and international levels; conduct a one-day study tour to demonstrate how forest monitoring works at the country level and to facilitate knowledge sharing among the participating countries (similar to the study tour under activity A1.1);

(A2.4) Prepare a publication on the national accountability systems for sustainable forest management in Central Asia and the Caucasus and related recommendations for remedial actions. The publication will be targeted to all countries in the ECE region to showcase progress in assessing sustainable forest management.

W. Evidence-based policies and accountability mechanisms for sustainable housing and urban development in the Economic Commission for Europe region

Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme ($499,000)

Background

167. The ECE Committee for Housing and Land Management provides a neutral platform for Governments and stakeholders in the region for dialogue and exchange of experiences and best practices with a view to promoting the sustainable development of human settlements in the ECE region while fostering economic and social prosperity and supporting democratic governance.

168. Development of evidence-based national policies on housing and urban development as public policy informed by rigorously established objective evidence is part of the Committee's programme of work. ECE country profiles on housing and land management are country-based comprehensive studies which provide evidence on national policies on housing and urban development. These studies have been developed by ECE for 18 countries with transition economies so far. These studies form the basis for the development and adoption of evidence-based policies by the Committee.

169. The process of promoting evidence-based policies has demonstrated that countries with transition economies need assistance in developing their capacities for evidence-based policies, including data collection and analysis. Development of these capacities is especially important in order to promote effective implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, which stresses the

importance of strong monitoring and accountability systems as a means of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the implementation of policies.

170. The project will strengthen national capacities for the development of evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development in four selected countries. It will build upon the country profiles on housing and land management that have been developed in cooperation with the Governments of these countries.

171. The project will build on the current efforts of the Committee to establish evidence- based policies on the basis of the country profiles and monitoring of the implementation of the strategy and the charter on sustainable housing. It will support the four countries in raising their capacity for evidence-based policies. The project will also develop a report with concrete recommendations on how the Committee can further support member States in developing their national evidence-based policies on housing and urban development.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen national capacity to develop evidence-based policies to achieve inclusive and sustainable housing and urban development in four selected countries with transition economies in the ECE region	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic development in Europe subprogramme 8 (Housing, land management and population); Human settlements subprogramme 5 (Housing and slum upgrading)	General temporary assistance 20.0 Consultants 136.0 Travel 86.0 Contractual services 50.0 Operating expenses 37.0 Seminars, workshops 170.0 **Total 499.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Strengthened national capacity of beneficiary countries to collect data on housing, urban development and land administration	(IA1.1) Quality national data on housing, urban development and land administration collected in three of the four countries
	(IA1.2) 65 per cent of trained beneficiaries confirm an increased capacity to collect data on housing, urban development and land administration
(EA2) Strengthened national technical capacity of relevant government agencies in beneficiary countries in the ECE region to develop evidence-based policies on housing, urban development and land administration	(IA2.1) Two specific evidence-based policies (laws, regulations) on housing, urban development and land administration developed in each selected country

Main activities

172. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Conduct four advisory missions to the target countries to discuss approaches and technical tools for the collection of data on housing, urban development and land administration relevant to sustainable development and human settlements in the four beneficiary countries;

(A1.2) Develop country-specific guidelines for data collection on housing, urban development and land administration relevant to the post-2015 agenda on cities and human settlements;

(A1.3) Organize four national validation workshops (one for each beneficiary country) to discuss the guidelines for data collection on housing, urban development and land administration and agree on recommendations for the development of accountability mechanisms for sustainable urban development;

(A1.4) Conduct follow-up advisory missions to the four countries to meet with government officials and technical experts involved in data collection to provide policy advice on the ongoing data collection;

(A2.1) Prepare training materials in English and Russian on the development of evidence-based sustainable urban development policies;

(A2.2) Organize four national training workshops to support the development of evidence-based sustainable housing and urban development policies;

(A2.3) Organize at least two online training courses using training materials developed in activity A.2.1 to provide support to the four countries;

(A2.4) Prepare the project report containing regional guidelines for the development of evidence-based policies;

(A2.5) Organize one regional meeting for ECE member States to share lessons learned concerning the development of data collection methodology and support for the related sustainable housing and urban development policies. The project report and the regional guidelines will be presented and discussed at this meeting with all interested ECE member States.

X. Sustainable energy for all in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat ($564,000)

Background

173. The three objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General are ensuring universal access to modern energy services, doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. Ensuring equitable access to modern energy services for households and public service facilities, including access to adequate electricity supply and clean energy for cooking, health and hygiene, is essential to fulfil basic human needs and enable sustainable development. However, access to modern energy services varies widely and requires adequate investment on the part of all concerned, from primary energy suppliers to end users. Improving energy efficiency is the famous low-hanging fruit that can contribute to energy security, a better environment, quality of life and economic well-being for all. Energy efficiency is the best way of getting more out of existing resources, supporting economic growth and reducing the energy costs for all citizens. Despite the multiple benefits, improving energy efficiency remains elusive. Low-energy tariff policies, subsidies, lack of information and lack of investment capital for end users are among the barriers to deployment of energy efficiency. The lessons learned from past activities in ECE countries with economies in transition have all demonstrated the lack of relevant information and data, limited

policy/regulatory infrastructure and slow implementation of activities focused on energy topics, including energy efficiency and renewable energy. Where data exist they are largely unreliable and incomplete, making it difficult to develop baseline conditions for both policy and measurement of progress.

174. The proposed project will assist ECE countries with economies in transition in the preparation of national action plans to achieve sustainable development goals related to energy. Reliable data provide the basis for better energy planning and management of resources, and eventually sustainable development. However, data for many ECE member States with economies in transition are not readily available, accessible or reliable. Filling the identified gaps with data having the desired key characteristics (comprehensive, transparent, homogeneous and consistent) represents real value added for strategic energy planning in many of these countries. The project will address gaps in existing information, assess the quality of existing energy statistics and develop new statistical foundations in support of these goals and objectives. Cooperation with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is explicitly intended to avoid any duplication and to ensure that the project benefits from the Department's expertise and experience.

175. The project further seeks to help member States with economies in transition to identify best practices, measures and procedures relevant to a sustainable energy transition, with a particular focus on the cross-cutting nature of energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy access. Member States with economies in transition do not have the necessary policy and regulatory infrastructure to enable progress on these fronts. The project will assist member States in the development of their national action plans for energy for sustainable development, drawing on best practice guidance from the ECE, and will help to convert the plans into effective national policy frameworks. This will be achieved through contracted national institutions, including academic bodies and energy agencies.

176. The five beneficiary countries of this project will represent energy importers, exporters and transit countries from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the national capacity of selected economies in transition in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to develop national action plans for sustainable energy for all	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars) Consultants 146.8 Travel 94.0 Contractual services 75.0 Operating expenses 5.2 Seminars, workshops 243.0 **Total 564.0**
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic development in Europe subprogramme 5 (Sustainable energy); Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 4 (Environment and development); Economic and social affairs subprogramme 3 (Sustainable development)	

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Improved national capacity for data collection and monitoring of progress on energy-related sustainable development goals	(IA1.1) Five countries collect more comprehensive and higher quality national data on sustainable energy in compliance with international standards, including the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

(EA2) Strengthened national capacities to develop national action plans for sustainable energy on the basis of the best international practices	(IA1.2) 80 per cent of national experts from relevant line ministries confirm increased knowledge of relevant best practices on sustainable energy (IA2.1) Five national action plans for sustainable energy are developed (one for each beneficiary country)

Main activities

177. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Conduct a baseline review of sustainable energy data in each beneficiary country in order to assess the existing gaps in data collection;

(A1.2) Provide two subregional training courses to the national officials and experts responsible for sustainable energy data collection. The courses will focus on methods for collection, verification, aggregation and reporting of data, as well as statistical indicators relevant for monitoring of sustainable energy development;

(A2.1) Conduct studies to identify relevant best practices on sustainable energy for each beneficiary country. The studies will develop increased knowledge and understanding of what the best practices are throughout the ECE region and which of them are most applicable to the national circumstances of the beneficiary countries;

(A2.2) Conduct multi-stakeholder consultations with the participation of national officials and experts, ECE, ESCAP, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the secretariat of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and others to share best practices for the development of national sustainable energy policies in each beneficiary country;

(A2.3) Develop a national action plan for each beneficiary country. The plans will be prepared by national entities in close cooperation with the national and international consultants as well as ECE, ESCAP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to support country ownership and future endorsement and implementation;

(A2.4) Conduct a final validation workshop for the national action plans for sustainable energy for each beneficiary country. The national experts from each beneficiary country involved in developing the plans will undertake a final review of the plans and validate them;

(A2.5) Organize one regional meeting for ECE member States to share lessons learned concerning the development of data collection methodology and support for the related sustainable housing and urban development policies.

Y. Big data for measuring and fostering the digital economy in Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ($682,000)

Background

178. The global economy is increasingly based on digital technologies that have permeated all economic and social activities: the digital economy. This digital economy consists of the telecommunications infrastructure, the information and communications technology industries (software, hardware and services) and the economic and social activities based on the Internet in fields such as commerce, health, government and education. Notwithstanding the importance of the digital economy, its size is underestimated by conventional definitions and datasets originally established as measures of production of physical goods. Current measurement methodologies cannot reflect the value of digital goods and services, the importance of their consumption or their impact on welfare.

179. Given the importance of information and communications technologies and digitization as enablers of economic growth, social inclusion and the sustainable use of natural resources, policies need to be based on adequate measurement of the digital economy to have significant impact. The availability of reliable data is crucial for the policymaking process, as it allows governments to allocate resources and evaluate the impact of different investment strategies, regulatory frameworks and policy decisions. In brief, the design of development policies must be based on measurement models that capture the sources of value creation of current patterns of economic growth. In the current context, this implies the setting of policy-relevant metrics and the use of big data combined with traditional sources, such as those used in the national accounts.

180. Since 2005, the Latin American and Caribbean countries have embraced the adoption of information and communications technologies as a tool for development through the approval of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean. As the technical secretariat of the Plan of Action, ECLAC has measured and monitored advances in the regional digital development through the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, working with national statistical offices and policymakers to define indicators and measurement methodologies of information and communications technology access and use that take into account socio-demographics variables, in particular the gender perspective.

181. The countries of the region have made progress towards the information society, but at vastly different speeds. While some countries are closing the digital gap with the more advanced economies, others show significantly poorer performance. Closing the digital gap, particularly the use of big data, implies increasing access to and appropriation of digital technologies and accelerating their diffusion across all economic sectors. In line with this objective, ECLAC has proposed to promote policies of structural change for equitable and sustainable development.

182. The project will focus on four countries. The criteria for the selection of countries are the level of advancement of policies related to the digital economy and the possibility of achieving concrete results within the project's life. The project will be implemented by the ECLAC Division on Production, Productivity and Management, together with the statistics and gender divisions. The International Telecommunications Union, UNCTAD and ECLAC are also expected to be actively involved, providing international experiences and capacity-building to enhance the measurement of the digital economy in Latin America and the Caribbean, taking into account international guidelines.

Objective of the Organization: To improve national capabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular in selected countries of the region, to measure the digital economy using big data and traditional statistical techniques to support evidence-based policies to foster digital development

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 2 (Production and innovation)

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	36.5
Consultants	182.6
Travel	109.6
Contractual services	32.3
Seminars, workshops	296.0
Equipment	25.0
Total	**682.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Increased capacities of Latin American and Caribbean countries to develop big data techniques and use them in combination with traditional data to measure the digital economy	(IA1.1) All countries participating in the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean sign an agreement on the importance of measuring the digital economy using big data
	(IA1.2) At least two of the four project countries use big data techniques, in combination with traditional data, for measuring the size of the digital economy and its impact on the economy and society
(EA2) Enhanced capacity of selected Latin American countries to strengthen their digital economy through evidence-based policies and plans at regional or national level	(IA2.1) Three of the four project countries develop policies or are executing action plans to improve the digital economy

Main activities

183. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Prepare a report that identifies and analyses the main experiences in the region and abroad in using big data analysis to measure the digital economy. This report will include a technical proposal of a set of adequate metrics and guidelines for measuring the digital economy using big data techniques;

(A1.2) Organize three regional workshops, the first to consider the need for new variables to assess the digital economy, the second to reach consensus on the metrics required, and the third on guidelines and the main techniques for measuring the digital economy;

(A1.3) Organize four national workshops to provide capacity-building assistance to the four beneficiary countries to facilitate the appropriation of standards metrics, using big data, for measuring the size of the digital economy and its impact on the economy and society;

(A1.4) Organize a regional seminar to share with countries of Latin America and the Caribbean the experiences of measuring the size of the digital economy and its impact on the economy and society using big data techniques. It is expected that the participating countries will sign a common declaration on the importance of measuring and fostering the digital economy;

(A1.5) Participate in one high-level international meeting organized by an external institution to discuss the ongoing results, disseminate the main project outcomes and exchange experiences;

(A2.1) Prepare a technical report on the evolution of the digital economy and its main components in the region, with analytical and empirical inputs from developed economies and countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (in particular from the four project countries);

(A2.2) Organize bilateral meetings and technical assistance missions to identify the main requirements of the four project beneficiary countries to better understand and improve their digital economy capacity;

(A2.3) Organize two regional workshops for policymakers on the digital economy and its impact on development. The workshops will analyse the digital economy's impact on productivity, employment and gender inclusion, among other socioeconomic variables, in order to identify the main determinants and experiences in improving the digital economy;

(A2.4) Organize a regional seminar to raise awareness among stakeholders of the need for digital economy policies and actions plans in Latin American and Caribbean countries and to contribute to the advancement of these policies in national agendas;

(A2.5) Dispatch advisory missions and provide ongoing support to countries that request assistance in developing digital economy-related policies (four project beneficiary countries).

Z. Addressing critical socio-environmental challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme ($615,000)

Background

184. One of the greatest challenges for environmentally sound and sustainable development is that Governments, enterprises and individuals make decisions based on severely limited information. These limitations lead to a situation in which, while environmental issues are firmly set in legislation, even at the Constitutional level, this is not reflected in budgets and incentive structures which determine the effectiveness of policy. ECLAC has worked with Governments over time to improve the production of statistics and data related to environment and sustainable development and to analyse and report on progress and challenges in sustainable development. It has also worked in recent years to strengthen the mechanisms through which citizens can exercise their right to know about the environmental conditions they are exposed to and can act to improve them. Provision of information on environmental conditions, environmental performance and the social and environmental impacts of public policies is a necessary condition for the effective exercise of citizenship and the promotion of sustainable development. Much remains to be done in this regard.

185. This project has been conceived against the background of an intense process of intergovernmental discussions on the development of a regional intergovernmental agreement on rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters, the key elements of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992). At the United Nations Conference

on Sustainable Development, a group of Latin American and Caribbean countries signed the Declaration on the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (A/CONF.216/13), which has since been signed by 19 countries. One of the key elements of putting into practice the right of access to information on environmental matters is the availability of information on pollution, which a number of countries have addressed by establishing pollutant release and transfer registers. These registers contain information on the emissions and transfers to the environment of potentially hazardous chemical substances.

186. The project builds on the work of ECLAC in supporting countries in the generation of information — notably studies on public expenditure on environment — and in policy analysis. It aims to address three critical aspects of the capacity of Governments to ensure the evidence base for their own environmental policy actions, monitor results and empower civil society to play an active role in policy design and implementation: (a) capacity-building, technical assistance and promotion of interregional exchange in the development of pollutant release and transfer registers and assessment of public expenditures on environment; (b) reviews of environmental performance and sustainability; and (c) continued support to the ongoing process leading to a regional instrument on rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters.

187. Approximately 10 countries will be targeted by this project. Nevertheless, most Latin American and Caribbean countries will benefit from the project's activities. Priority in the selection criteria will be given to the 19 countries that have signed the Declaration on the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and those that formally assume commitments in the join implementation of the activities. Most of those countries are at different stages of development with regard to the different components of the rights of access, and the strongest impact will be achieved by attending to each country's needs in the matter.

Objective of the Organization: To improve the capacity of selected countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region to monitor environmental matters; to support countries in adopting a participatory and evidence-based approach to environmental policymaking	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 8 (Sustainable development and human settlements)	General temporary assistance 30.0 Consultants 107.2 Travel 120.0 Contractual services 50.0 Seminars, workshops 284.8 Operating expenses 15.0 Equipment 8.0 **Total 615.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of civil servants to collect and analyse information related to pollution and environmental costs and expenditures	(IA1.1) At least two of the seven target countries that have shown interest in the subject show evidence of instituting or strengthening pollutant release and transfer registers (IA1.2) At least two additional countries show progress in the tracking of environmental expenditures

(EA2) Enhanced capacity of the target countries to assess environmental performance in order to design more effective, evidence-based policies	(IA2.1) At least two of the five selected countries show progress in the tracking of environmental expenditures
(EA3) Enhanced capacity of the target countries to ensure the rights of access to information on environmental matters, in the context of a regional agreement on the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration	(IA3.1) At least four of the 19 signatories countries of the Declaration on the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development show evidence of advancing towards greater access rights at the national level within the context of a regional agreement (IA3.2) A programme of regional cooperation on access rights and environment is established

Main activities

188. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize a regional workshop to provide civil servants in interested countries of the region with training in pollutant release and transfer registers and corresponding data analysis. The participants will be briefed on experiences and provided with guidelines on how to implement pollutant release and transfer registers;

(A1.2) Provide advisory services and organize one national meeting in each of two countries to assist them in addressing their specific situations, challenges, barriers and implementation issues regarding pollutant release and transfer registers. The advisory services will address specific challenges of these countries that could not be tackled in the regional workshop. The two countries will be selected from the categories mentioned in activity A1.1 above;

(A1.3) Issue one publication compiling findings from the workshop and the advisory services for the benefit of all countries implementing pollutant release and transfer registers in the near future. The publication will be distributed online as soon as it is ready and actively disseminated among Governments and civil society organizations registered with ECLAC;

(A1.4) Organize a regional workshop to support progress in tracking environmental costs and expenditures. A website will be created to compile the findings of the workshop and to diffuse relevant information to participant countries and other stakeholders;

(A1.5) Provide advisory services and organize one national meeting in each of two countries on the tracking of environmental costs and expenditures. Specific implementation issues or barriers will be addressed and implementation strategies designed together with the Governments of the two countries;

(A2.1) Extend advisory services to two selected countries for the production and compilation of information on environmental performance and sustainability according to international standards;

(A2.2) Organize two national meetings for the purpose environmental performance reviews or sustainability assessments, with full the participation of civil servants, civil society and entrepreneurs. Environmental performance reviews address the state of the environment, pressures and policy actions to achieve sustainable development;

(A2.3) Issue two publications on the basis of the results of activities A2.1 and A2.2, providing policy recommendations to countries committed to improving their environmental performance. These will be disseminated as soon as they are ready through the ECLAC website, at relevant venues and through the network of practitioners that has been created over the course of the process towards a regional agreement on rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters (the principle 10 process);

(A3.1) Organize two regional meetings in support of the principle 10 process;

(A3.2) Organize two capacity-building meetings in support of the principle 10 process. Civil servants from the Latin American and Caribbean countries and civil society representatives will be invited to attend; the issues addressed will include environmental information, access to environmental information, participation processes, techniques and instruments, environmental justice and law and negotiation skills, among others.

AA. Input-output tables for industrial and trade policies in Central and South America

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ($788,000)

Background

189. One of the most significant developments in the global economy over the last two decades has been the geographical fragmentation of production into regional and global value chains. These chains generate large flows of trade in intermediate goods and services as well as foreign direct investment. The low but increasing participation of Latin American countries in these chains is a potential source of productive and export diversification and structural transformation. The regional value chains in particular have the potential to promote inclusive development, as regional trade is concentrated in manufacturing products and includes many small firms.

190. The analysis of the (potential) contribution of regional value chains to structural change requires specialized tools, such as input-output tables and supply-use tables. These tools depict an articulated view of the economic system by relating sectoral sales and purchases of all industries, specifying consumption patterns of households and the general government, showing the sectoral composition of public and private fixed capital formation and expressing export and import flows at the industry level. They allow for a systematic and integrated treatment of key themes of structural change in the countries of the region. They can show relations between sectors, creation of domestic value added and employment, sectoral energy needs and domestic consequences of external shocks.

191. For the definition of a regional agenda that promotes productive integration among Latin American countries, the development of a regional input-output table is crucial. It is the basis for the design of regional industrial and innovation policies. It also supports the creation and deepening of subregional manufacturing networks of specialized providers, generating employment with demand-inducing effects that can exploit intraregional markets, triggering scale economies and productivity advances. A regional input-output table will enable countries to have information disaggregated by sector and main trading partners, the generation of domestic value added, the contribution of external trade with their partners and the sectoral energy requirements.

192. In several countries of the region, especially in Central America, input-output tables are not yet available, while some South American countries' tables are outdated. An increasing number of

countries in Latin America are producing supply-use tables, which represent a major building block for the construction of input-output tables.

193. The main innovation of the project will be threefold: (a) to help countries that do not yet have an input-output table to build one; (b) to construct one regional and three subregional and input-output tables that are not available yet; and (c) to assist Governments in using these tables for the formulation and monitoring of industrial and trade policies.

194. The project responds to an urgent need for the development of regional quantitative tools based on robust data from national accounts. Both national and regional input-output tables provide powerful instruments for the design of public policies by identifying indicators related to the share of national value added in exports, the share of employment associated with productive and export activities and national and international value chains at the sectoral level, among others. They will also be crucial in tracking progress of the post-2015 agenda.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of selected countries in Central and South America to design and monitor trade and industrial policies through the construction and use of national, subregional and regional input-output tables

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 1 (Linkages with the global economy, integration and regional cooperation), subprogramme 2 (Production and innovation), subprogramme 11 (Statistics) and subprogramme 12 (Subregional activities in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico)

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	30.0
Consultants	222.7
Expert group meeting	25.0
Travel	126.0
Contractual services	30.0
Seminars, workshops	344.0
Operating expenses	10.3
Total	**788.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Strengthened capacity of national and subregional statistical systems in selected Central and South American countries enabling them to design and build national, subregional and regional input-output tables	(IA1.1) At least 75 per cent of the participants from beneficiary countries acknowledge an increased capacity to design and build national and regional input-output tables as a result of the project
	(IA1.2) Six of the seven beneficiary countries have a national input-output table or an action plan for this purpose to serve as a statistical basis for analysis
	(IA1.3) At least two (of three) subregional input-output tables and one regional table are working and pass consistency tests
(EA2) Improved capacity of institutions in selected Central and South American countries that will enable them to design and monitor national trade and industrial policies through the use of national, subregional and regional input-output tables	(IA2.1) At least 75 per cent of the participants from beneficiary countries acknowledge having increased their capacity in the use of indicators based on input-output tables to design and assess the impact of industrial and trade policies, in line with the post-2015 agenda

	(IA2.2) In five out of seven countries, at least one institution which has participated in the training activities uses new policy-related indicators based on input-output tables generated from the project for the design and monitoring of the industrial and trade policies
(EA3) Increased knowledge of institutions to use or interpret the results of national, subregional and regional input-output tables to design policies to promote production complementarities at the subregional level	(IA3.1) At least 75 per cent of the participants from beneficiary countries acknowledge having increased their capacity to use input-output tables as a tool to formulate policies aimed at fostering potential subregional production networks
	(IA3.2) In five out of seven countries, at least one institution which has participated in the training activities uses policy-related indicators based on input-output tables generated from the project for the design and monitoring of policies aimed at fostering potential subregional production networks

Main activities

195. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Prepare training materials presenting methodologies for combining national accounts and other data sources needed to build national and regional input-output tables, as well as methodologies for updating input-output tables;

(A1.2) Organize three subregional workshops (Andean Community, Central America and Southern Common Market) to do a gap analysis on the datasets available to build national and regional input-output tables. These workshops will be attended by representatives of central banks, trade ministries and statistical institutes, and will help to define priorities with regard to statistics to be developed;

(A1.3) Provide technical assistance to national authorities for the processing of information from national accounts and other sources to build input-output tables, as needed or requested;

(A1.4) Build one regional and three subregional input-output tables on the basis of national input-output tables that take into account trade interrelationships at the industry level;

(A1.5) Organize two subregional expert group meetings with specialists to validate the subregional input-output tables built in activity A1.4 above. One expert group meeting will be organized in Central America and another in South America to address specific issues and allow for in-depth discussions for each subregion;

(A2.1) Prepare training materials on the use of indicators and results drawn from input-output tables to help policymaking institutions design and assess the impact of industrial and trade policies, in line with the post-2015 agenda;

(A2.2) Conduct three subregional workshops (Andean Community, Central America and Southern Common Market) to train policymakers in the use of indicators based on

input-output tables that can help them design and assess the impact of industrial and trade policies, in line with the post-2015 agenda;

(A2.3) Elaborate seven country case studies and one synthesis document with an analysis and assessment of indicators that support the design and monitoring of industrial and trade policies, for the benefit of policymaking institutions;

(A2.4) Dispatch technical assistance missions to each of the target countries to assist institutions that have participated in the training activities in the use of indicators based on input-output tables for the development and monitoring of national industrial and trade policies;

(A2.5) Create a database with indicators for the development and monitoring of national industrial and trade policies based on national, subregional and regional input-output tables. This database will support policymaking institutions that participated in the training activities;

(A3.1) Prepare user guides and tutorials to define indicators that support: (a) the identification of subregional production networks with the use of input-output tables; and (b) the formulation of policies aimed at fostering potential subregional production networks using these tables;

(A3.2) Conduct three subregional workshops (Andean Community, Central America and Southern Common Market) to train institutions in the use or interpretation of input-output tables to formulate policies aimed at fostering potential subregional production networks;

(A3.3) Elaborate three studies (one per subregion) and one synthesis document with an analysis and assessment of the resulting input-output indicators that will help in the design and monitoring of policies that promote regional production networks. These documents will be aimed at institutions in charge of these policies;

(A3.4) Conduct technical assistance missions to each of the three subregions to assist institutions in charge of the use of indicators based on input-output tables for the development and monitoring of regional production networks;

(A3.5) Create a database with tables of indicators for the development and monitoring of regional production networks based subregional and regional input-output tables. This database will be made available for use by national institutions.

AB. South-South cooperation for science, technology and innovation policies in the Asia-Pacific region

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ($750,000)

Background

196. The critical role of science, technology and innovation for achieving sustainable and inclusive development has recently been confirmed by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the 2013 ministerial review meeting of the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General, in his report to the Economic and Social Council on science, technology and innovation, reaffirmed that "science, technology and innovation capacities are important prerequisites for structural and social transformation that enable economic growth, human

development and poverty reduction" (E/2013/54, para. 29). ESCAP, through one of its regional institutions — the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology — has been providing assistance to member countries in strengthening their national innovation systems to achieve their development objectives by enhancing the technology capacity and competitiveness of industries and promoting new technology entrepreneurship. It was found, however, in the course of capacity-building initiatives of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology for strengthening national innovation systems, that national data on science, technology and innovation are inadequate and that knowledge of the data is typically scattered among various government ministries and institutions. Furthermore, it has become apparent that mechanisms and institutional capacities to access and analyse these data and transform them into evidence-based policies do not exist in a number of developing countries in the region. This has resulted in incoherent national policies on science, technology and innovation, leading to weak national innovation and technology development ecosystems in many developing countries of the region, especially in the least developed countries.

197. The present project intends to support target countries in developing and adopting evidence-based holistic science, technology and innovation policy frameworks and strategies in order to strengthen their national technology innovation ecosystems and achieve inclusive and sustainable development goals. Major components of the framework and strategies would include, among others, science, technology and innovation infrastructure; skilled human resources; international and national linkages and partnerships among academia, research and design institutions and industries; technology and innovation financing; small and medium-sized enterprises; and major manufacturing industrial sectors. In this regard, the project would review the relevant work so far carried out by United Nations agencies and international organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNCTAD, the World Intellectual Property Organization and others to adopt best practices and utilize their accumulated knowledge and skills as well as those available from various divisions of ESCAP, in implementing project activities.

198. The project will target least developed countries and developing countries from the South Asia, South-East Asia and Pacific subregions of ESCAP to strengthen their capacity to collect and aggregate national science, technology and innovation data and use those data to formulate evidence-based policies. Countries having varied degrees of socioeconomic development will be chosen in order to enhance opportunities for South-South cooperation among themselves and with other technologically advanced countries such as China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea, who will participate in the project capacity-building activities of the project, sharing their best practices and lessons learned in developing and applying science, technology and innovation strategies and policy frameworks. National participants will include various institutions and entities with relevant objectives and mandates, such as governmental agencies on trade, commerce, industry, education and labour; industry associations and chambers of commerce; and non-governmental organizations.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of selected countries of the Asia-Pacific region to formulate science, technology and innovation policies and strategies to strengthen their national innovation systems	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)	
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 2 (Trade and investment) and Trade and development subprogramme 4 (Technology and logistics)	General temporary assistance	35.0
	Consultants	181.0
	Expert group	48.0
	Travel of staff	105.0
	Contractual services	30.0
	Workshops/training	336.0
	Operating expenses	15.0
	Total	**750.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced national capacity to develop, revise and apply methodologies to collect, aggregate and analyse data required to develop a national science, technology and innovation strategy and policy framework	(IA1.1) At least six of the 10 target countries utilize methodologies developed by the project to collect, aggregate and analyse science, technology and innovation data
(EA2) Enhanced capacity of policymakers to develop and adopt science, technology and innovation strategy and policy frameworks	(IA2.1) More than 80 per cent of trained participants indicate an increased capacity to develop science, technology and innovation strategies and policy frameworks based on national data
	(IA2.2) Science, technology and innovation strategy and policy frameworks have been adopted by at least six of the 10 target countries to strengthen their national innovation ecosystems

Main activities

199. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Review and identify the current best practices of methodologies used in technologically advanced countries and international organizations for collecting, aggregating and analysing science, technology and innovation data;

(A1.2) Organize a senior science, technology and innovation policy expert group meeting to discuss, review and validate the methodologies to collect and aggregate science, technology and innovation data produced by activity A1.1. (This expert group meeting will be organized jointly with the one covered by activity A2.2.);

(A1.3) Engage a regional institution in the ESCAP region to publicize the methodologies to collect, aggregate and analyse national science, technology and innovation data and obtain online feedback on the methodologies from stakeholders for further refinement;

(A1.4) Finalize the methodologies to collect, aggregate and analyse national science, technology and innovation data on the basis of the feedback from activity A1.3 and recommendations made by the expert group meetings (A1.2);

(A1.5) Organize two subregional workshops (i.e. for the South Asia and South-East Asia and the Pacific subregions) jointly with the workshops covered by activity A2.3 for national partner institutions in the project target countries as a follow-up to activities A1.2 and A1.4 on current national practices to collect science, technology and innovation data, identify gaps and develop an action plan to adopt methodologies recognized in activity A1.4 for evidence-based science, technology and innovation strategy and policy formulation;

(A1.6) Organize one national workshop in cooperation with the national partner institution in each of the project target countries on the implementation of the methodologies to collect, aggregate and analyse national science, technology and innovation data;

(A1.7) Involve national partner institution and national consultant to continue to provide technical support and advisory services to the participants in the national workshop (A1.6) in collecting and analysing national data required for evidence-based science, technology and innovation strategy and policy formulation;

(A2.1) Identify and review the current science, technology and innovation strategy and policy frameworks at the regional and global levels; identify gaps in the existing national frameworks of the participating countries; and draft a generic and holistic science, technology and innovation strategy and policy framework;

(A2.2) Organize a senior policy expert group meeting to discuss and review the draft of a generic and holistic science, technology and innovation strategy and policy framework that could be adopted by the target countries. (This expert group meeting will be organized jointly with the one covered by activity A1.2.);

(A2.3) Organize two subregional workshops (i.e. for the South Asia and South-East Asia and the Pacific subregions) jointly with those covered by activity A1.5 for national partner institutions as a follow-up to activities A1.2 and A2.2 for target countries to initiate steps to develop nationally relevant science, technology and innovation policy frameworks and strategies;

(A2.4) Organize one national workshop in each of the project target countries for senior policymakers from various government ministries and institutions for the adoption of the generic and holistic science, technology and innovation strategy and policy framework. (This national workshop will be organized jointly with the one covered by activity A1.6.);

(A2.5) Organize the second national workshop on the basis of self-funding by the partner institutions as a follow-up to activities A1.6 and A2.4 in each of the project target countries for senior policymakers and various national institutions on the progress made and the way forward in respect of the evidence-based science, technology and innovation strategy and policy framework.

AC. Innovative climate finance mechanisms for financial institutions in the Asia-Pacific region

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ($670,000)

Background

200. Meeting the huge financing requirements of a transformative post-2015 development agenda requires aligning, renewing and modifying the financing framework for implementation. Official development assistance financing is declining and, despite improvements in recent years, there is a significant gap between developed and developing countries in their capacity to raise public revenues. Alternative sources of financing must be leveraged. A financial sector that contributes to eradicating poverty and promoting balanced and sustainable growth, unleashes the potential of private financing and provides effective incentives for supporting sustainable and long-term financing is needed to support such fundamental transformation to achieve "The future we want".

201. While climate change is a global phenomenon, climate action, especially for adaptation measures, will need to take place primarily at the national level. Besides international multilateral financing and public financing, effectively securing financing for climate adaptation must include leveraging private-sector financing, including private investments from the region's growing financial sector and middle classes directed towards sustainable investment choices. A shift is required from short-term investments directed at maximizing economic growth, which exploits natural and human resources, to long-term investment strategies for inclusive and sustainable development with respect to people and nature.

202. National public finance institutions have a key role to play in guiding investments towards low-carbon sustainable development strategies. Practical challenges include the high up-front investments needed for the transition to low-emission and energy-efficient alternatives; managing the perceived and real higher political, technology and policy risks; and creating an enabling policy environment with clear signals from the Government and public financial institutions to private-sector investors. To successfully develop local capital markets that support sustainable development objectives, policymakers need to build institutions and infrastructure to manage, monitor and regulate them. Reforms are needed in order to integrate low-carbon and climate resilience strategies into national development plans and to foster investments.

203. This project aims to build and expand on the capacity of financial institutions (with particular focus on public financial institutions, national development banks and some selected private sector networks active in the climate finance sector) to implement innovative programmes across the Asia-Pacific region. The project will focus on the South and South-East Asian region, targeting four to five countries. Final country selection will depend on country demand and need. The project will also work to engage countries across the ESCAP region that have acquired expertise and adopted best practices, in order to encourage South-South learning and cooperation networks to emerge.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of financial institutions in the Asia-Pacific region to develop an enabling policy environment that promotes private investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation projects	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)	
	General temporary assistance	33.6
	Consultants	191.9
	Travel	105.0
	Contractual services	46.0
	Seminar, workshops	293.5
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 4 (Environment and development)	**Total**	**670.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Increased awareness among policymakers of public and private financial institutions of the types of policies and guidelines that can be implemented to incentivize long-term low-carbon, green, resource-efficient and climate-resilient investment from the private sector	(IA1.1) At least 80 per cent of the public financial institution policymakers and decision makers attending capacity-building activities and workshops indicate their increased awareness of the types of policies and guidelines that can be implemented to incentivize long-term low-carbon, green, resource-efficient and climate-resilient investment from the private sector
(EA2) Strengthened capacity of public financial institutions in selected countries to develop and implement policies and guidelines that promote private-sector investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation projects	(IA2.1) Public financial institutions in at least three of the target countries utilize the best-practice policy options and financial instruments identified/developed by the project scoping study, including, inter alia, guidelines for strengthened governance arrangements and incentive frameworks to encourage private climate finance investments, to draft policies and guidelines for private sector investments, addressing the existing scarcity of finance for climate mitigation and adaptation projects

Main activities

204. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Undertake a stocktaking/scoping study, including through on-the-ground research (interviews with target stakeholder groups) and by leveraging ongoing work of ESCAP on policy guidance for climate finance and low-carbon development in the region;

(A1.2) Organize and convene a seminar to present preliminary findings of the scoping study, collect inputs and feedback from thought leaders in beneficiary countries and validate outcomes of activity A1.1;

(A1.3) On the basis of activities A1.1 and A1.2, develop a toolkit of policy options and financial instruments, including guidelines that highlight strengthened governance arrangements, appropriate enabling policy environments and incentive frameworks to encourage private climate finance investments;

(A1.4) Organize a national workshop in each of the five target countries. At the workshop, national participants will be briefed on the project findings and will work to: (a) develop a scenario of climate finance based on current institutional infrastructure in-country and a future vision of desired outcomes; (b) identify priority strategic areas for intervention and institutional arrangements at the policy level; (c) identify the technical experts, policymakers and/or other key stakeholders who, with strong institutional support from their organization, will serve as project "champions" at the national and regional level. The champions will be individuals tied to relevant national institutions;

(A1.5) Organize and deliver an in-person awareness-raising and capacity-building workshop on the importance of low-carbon development strategies and on the best practices in the region for senior and other interested parties at the champions' institutions;

(A1.6) Organize a follow-up national workshop in each of the five target countries to: (a) share the draft policy guidelines developed in activity A1.3 for feedback from key stakeholders; (b) promote the ongoing works of the project and the champion institutions; and (c) raise awareness and increase national buy-in from private-sector and other key stakeholders and counterparts;

(A2.1) Using the outputs of activities A1.1, A1.2 and A1.3, develop multimedia course training materials to be used for the ESCAP online learning facility and in-person training;

(A2.2) Deliver capacity-building activities on financial options and instruments based on the products of activity A2.1 through online learning sessions targeting primarily national public and private financial institutions and champions identified in activity A1.4, initially, inviting broader participation as the project rolls on;

(A2.3) Convene the first annual champions network meeting to deliver an in-person regional capacity-building workshop to the champions identified in activity A1.4. The event will serve to strengthen and consolidate the network of "change makers". The in-person capacity-building will build on the online learning sessions, drill down into country specifics leveraging expert resource persons and identify potential for South-South cooperation between champion networks for mutual learning and cooperation;

(A2.4) Facilitate quarterly online/remote champion meetings to keep up the progress of the work of champions, share best practices and ensure continuous capacity development;

(A2.5) Convene the second and third annual workshops for project champions. The workshops will follow up on the outcomes of previous meetings and assess progress in the utilization of the policy options and instruments;

(A2.6) Provide advisory services in each of the five project beneficiary countries, in close collaboration with the host institutions and the project champions, to support the development of draft policies and guidelines to promote private-sector investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation;

(A2.7) Organize a regional workshop that will bring together project champions and peers from across the ESCAP region to share project outcomes and findings and to identify and consolidate the handover of the champion network secretariat functions to one of the project knowledge partners for sustainability.

AD. Evidence-based policies for the sustainable use of natural resources in the Asia-Pacific region

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($666,000)

Background

205. The Asia-Pacific region has achieved high rates of economic growth and overall development during the last decades, lifting a billion people from poverty. However, progress has come at significant costs. Rapid growth within the region, largely driven by the increased consumption of natural resources, has resulted in deep social, ecological and economic imbalances. Despite growing efforts by countries, sustainable development remains a distant goal, and governance of resource use requires recognition of the unsustainable economic model of development that assumes no ecological limits to growth.

206. The need for sustainable data for sustainable development has been particularly emphasized across many platforms. However, gaps in data remain and existing data are underutilized, hampering policymaking efforts. Low capacity to effectively access and utilize data on resource potential, reserves, production and consumption for long-term planning in many countries increases the vulnerabilities of those countries and limits the potential for sustainable economic and social development.

207. Decision-making that considers the linkages between the management of resources — coal, oil, hydropower, gas, solar, wind and biomass — and economic, social and environmental impacts requires cross-sectoral approaches to analysing challenges and developing effective policies. However, decision makers participating in ESCAP dialogues continuously emphasize the need for increased knowledge exchange to enable policy development, and have pointed to the issue of limited access to examples of successful policies in countries having a comparable development context.

208. This project will focus on enabling evidence-based decision-making through three targeted capacity-building streams: (a) strengthening the data and policy information base; (b) analysis of future resource demand, availability and development scenarios; and (c) broadening understanding of trends, impacts, and efficacy of current and past policy structures in order to inform new policy development. Taking advantage of advanced information and communications technology, policymakers will be given access to a knowledge platform offering a comprehensive set of data related to resource reserves, potential, production and use, as well as a digital library of policies from the region.

209. Capacity-building will focus on enabling national policymakers to utilize the informational tools made available to them to identify national trends across data and policy indicators, recognize opportunities for improving the sustainable use of resources, perform research and analysis on existing policy approaches in other countries having similar development contexts, and draft responsive policies governing resource development with consideration of economic, social and environmental aspects. The project will target five countries, chosen on the basis of expressed need for improved data and policy information availability, as well as requests that the secretariat assist in the implementation of initiatives and projects aimed at the sustainable use of natural resources. The main partners will include ESCAP subregional offices and subregional and national organizations in South-East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific who have acquired local expertise through their close contact with member States and ongoing activities in data and policy.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen capacities of policymakers in Asia and the Pacific to develop evidence-based policy and planning for sustainable use of natural resources at national and regional levels	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)	
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific subprogramme 4 (Environment and development), Economic and Social Affairs subprogramme 3 (Sustainable development), Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean subprogramme 9 (Natural resources and infrastructure)	Consultants	186.0
	Expert group	15.0
	Travel	64.0
	Contractual services	55.0
	Seminar, workshops	315.0
	Operating expenses	7.0
	Equipment	24.0
	Total	**666.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Improved capacity of policymakers in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region to review and assess the use of natural resources, development challenges and trends through the use of a knowledge platform containing national and regional data, policy information and development scenarios	(IA1.1) 70 per cent of trained policymakers and decision makers acknowledge that they have enhanced knowledge and capacity to analyse the challenges and trends in the use of natural resources through the utilization of national and regional data, policy information and development scenarios contained within the knowledge platform
(EA2) Increased capacity of policymakers in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region to develop and implement evidence-based policies for the sustainable use of natural resources by identifying gaps and good practices utilizing project informational tools	(IA2.1) Three of the five project countries draft or revise evidence-based national policies for the sustainable use of natural resources

Main activities

210. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Organize an inception meeting to: (a) inform the development of a knowledge platform in order to ensure that the scope and functionality will meet the informational and analytical needs of policymakers; and (b) review challenges related to data and policy availability and provide recommendations on how to best meet informational challenges;

(A1.2) Develop a scope study for the development of the knowledge platform based on the results of the inception meeting;

(A1.3) Organize an expert group meeting on methods for integrating informational resources into the decision-making process;

(A1.4) On the basis of the outcomes of the inception meeting and the expert group meeting, develop an innovative, centralized, web-based knowledge platform to host the collection of data and policies and enable analysis of energy resource reserves, potential, production, distribution and use;

(A1.5) Organize five national training workshops on utilizing the knowledge platform and providing inputs to continue the expansion of the knowledge base. The training will cover the use of the centralized knowledge platform, as well as an assessment of the availability and quality of inputs;

(A1.6) Provide advisory services to follow up with project countries to assess the ability to use all knowledge platform functionalities and to improve the coverage and quality of inputs;

(A2.1) Organize two subregional seminars in collaboration with international, subregional and national organizations on the resource-use scenarios to the year 2050, emphasizing the following scenarios: baseline (business as usual), resource efficiency and sustainability transition through systems and governance innovation. The scenario outputs will be incorporated in the knowledge platform;

(A2.2) Conduct a regional assessment and prepare a report on natural resources, with a focus on trends and policy options regarding resource reserves, potential, production and consumption. The assessment report, drawing largely on the information provided by countries through the web-based regional knowledge platform, from seminars and from national workshops will be disseminated through the knowledge platform;

(A2.3) Organize five national training sessions on the application of knowledge gained from the enhanced knowledge platform (see activity A2.1 above), the national workshops (activity A1.5) and the assessment report (activity A2.2) to develop policymaking and national strategy development;

(A2.4) Provide advisory services to project countries as a follow-up to the training on developing policies for strengthening natural resources governance;

(A2.5) Organize a closing regional workshop with the participation of government officials, civil society and the private sector, based on the study report, to share experiences and lessons learned from country-level efforts in evidence-based assessment and policy development and to identify priorities for regional cooperation in resource management.

AE. Institutional development for better service delivery towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals in Western Asia

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ($666,000)

Background

211. The issues of institutional resilience and risk management against a background of conflict and political instability are particularly important for ESCWA member States. Taking into consideration the context and recent history of the region, the project aims to provide member States with the tools and capacity to build more resilient, efficient and effective institutions.

212. This recognition and focus on governance and competent institutions is consistent with the global debate on the post-2015 development agenda. The experience of the Millennium Development Goals has revealed that without effective, efficient, transparent and accountable government, coupled with national ownership of development goals, the post 2015-development goals will not be attainable, especially in the context of countries in conflict, crisis or transition. Furthermore, the

lack of stable and robust institutions exacerbates the fragility of the State and prevents delivery of any meaningful services to the people who most need them. Thus, building institutions that can address emerging needs in these countries is of paramount importance to the region and the attainment of sustainable development goals.

213. The recent reviews of the Millennium Development Goals have illustrated significant development achievements as well as remaining challenges across the globe. An Overseas Development Institute report illustrated global dissatisfaction over Governments' failure to delivery much-anticipated development outcomes within the Millennium Development Goals framework. The report cited one of the recent global surveys conducted online by the United Nations, MY World, which provided a snapshot of people's views towards development priorities based on the votes of 5 million people from 194 countries. According to the survey, "an honest and responsive government" was ranked fourth, after "a good education", "better health care" and "better job opportunities", and ahead of "protection against crime and violence" (sixth), "freedom from discrimination and persecution" (ninth) and "political freedom" (fourteenth). The report of the Overseas Development Institute and various reviews of the Millennium Development Goals concluded that people are more concerned about Governments' abilities to deliver public goods and services for the betterment of people's lives than they are about the forms of governance. The shift from form of governance to function as a development paradigm is also borne out by the fact that, of 40 governance-related targets and indicators discussed in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda, 28 focus on functions and only 8 on forms of governance.

Objective of the Organization: Assist member countries in strengthening and building the resilience of institutions that are critical to the delivery of essential services towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals, with a focus on ESCWA countries in conflict, crisis and transition

Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social development in Western Asia subprogramme 2 (Social development), subprogramme 4 (Information and communications technology for regional integration) and subprogramme 7 (Conflict mitigation and development)

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	37.5
Consultants	163.6
Expert group meeting	77.0
Travel	89.4
Contractual services	20.0
Operating expenses	12.5
Workshops/training	266.0
Total	**666.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Enhanced capacity of public institutions to develop governance strategies and policies to enhance performance, service provision abilities and institutional resilience to conflict, using a participatory approach to social policy formulation and consensus-building	(IA1.1) Target countries use the risk management tools proposed by the project (IA1.2) Policies that enhance service provision abilities are developed in target countries using the tools generated by ESCWA for participatory development and civic engagement
(EA2) Enhanced national capacity of selected countries to use emerging technologies for greater transparency and accountability in government service provision	(IA2.1) Open government and e-government services are deployed in target countries

Main activities

214. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop a handbook on damage, loss and needs assessment methodology specifically for countries in conflict, crisis and transition in the Arab region, on the basis of the ECLAC methodology;

(A1.2) Organize an expert group meeting to validate the handbook developed in activity A1.1;

(A1.3) Organize three subregional capacity-building training courses for government officials in charge of risk and emergency response and management using the handbook developed in activities A1.1 and A1.2;

(A1.4) Conduct a survey on the impact of the ESCWA participatory approach to development in order to gather information and generate recommendations on the level of involvement and the limitations facing civil society participation in public policy processes and in the path of democratic transition;

(A1.5) Conduct institutional mapping in each of three target countries to help identify ministries, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and media that are involved in social development and democratic governance work;

(A1.6) Conduct two regional four-day workshops to develop participatory and governance competencies among government officials, civil society activists and academics and to build their capacities to participate in reform, systems transformation and conflict resolution processes;

(A2.1) Develop studies, guidelines and training materials on enhancing the use of emerging technologies for greater government transparency and accountability in service provision in the Arab region;

(A2.2) Organize a meeting of experts to discuss and review the materials developed in activity A2.1;

(A2.3) Organize two regional and three national capacity-building workshops on utilizing emerging technologies for better governance in the Arab region based on the ESCWA guidelines (developed in activity A2.1);

(A2.4) Establish a committee of practice composed of participants selected from each target country on the basis of specific eligibility criteria set out in the mapping stage and the survey to ensure sustainability of this effort.

AF. Promoting social justice in selected countries in the Arab region

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ($301,000)

Background

215. Social justice ranks high in the priorities of many ESCWA member countries. A resurgent Arab region is faced today with very pressing demands for transformative change towards new development models based on sustainable development principles that embrace the interrelated objectives of social justice, democracy, freedom and human dignity. Arab countries need to rethink their social contracts, social policies, economic growth strategies, taxation, governance systems and legislative and regulatory frameworks to make them more inclusive and to safeguard the principles of equality, equity, rights and participation upon which the concept of social justice rests.

216. Many Arab countries lack the required tools and mechanisms for developing social justice strategies and making them operational within their development plans. Consequently, this project will focus on strengthening the capacity of Arab countries — particularly those experiencing instability owing to conflict or undergoing political transitions — to operationalize social justice principles and integrate them in their development strategies and programmes.

217. The project will produce and apply tools on integrating social justice principles in the development process. It will also develop strong cooperation between local actors and central Governments, civil society and external actors. This outcome will contribute to the ability of government to strengthen the capacity of Arab countries to support more effective, equitable and participatory policy processes, including inclusive models of growth and policies for financing social and sustainable development.

218. ESCWA has amassed a vast technical cooperation and capacity-building experience in the region through its participatory development training modules and its work on partnerships for democratic governance. Most recently, it has produced a pioneering training toolkit under the rubric of "Developing social protection policies using a participatory approach in the Arab region". This project, through the organization of two subregional workshops, will train participants from all 22 Arab member countries and empower them to use this efficient tool during the process of national social protection policy formulation. Additional support will be accorded to three member countries from the Mashreq, Maghreb and Gulf regions through the provision of advisory services. ESCWA would collaborate in this interregional project with other key regional partners, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). These entities will contribute to normative work and add to it their experience in the areas of human rights and gender equality.

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of selected countries in the ESCWA region to adopt and implement rights-based social policies that promote social justice and lead to equitable, inclusive and participatory socioeconomic development	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social development in Western Asia subprogramme 2 (Social development) and subprogramme 6 (Advancement of women)	General temporary assistance 10.0 Consultants 47.2 Expert group meeting 38.0 Travel 24.0 Contractual services 17.8 Workshops/training 164.0 **Total 301.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Improved capacity of policymakers in target countries to design and implement gender mainstreaming strategies and plans for the elimination of gender discrimination and violation of the economic and social rights of women	(IA1.1) Increased ability of member countries to bring national, subregional or regional frameworks into line with international conventions, conferences and agreements related to gender mainstreaming
(EA2) Improve capacity of beneficiary countries to develop rights-based social policies and programmes that promote social cohesion, social inclusion, social protection and the provision of adequate services for all	(IA2.1) Increased number of programmes, measures and policies formulated to promote social protection, social cohesion and inclusion using the participatory approach

	(IA2.2) At least 70 per cent of trained participants confirm capacity to develop rights-based social policies and programmes that promote social protection, cohesion and inclusion

Main activities

219. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Develop a training kit on gender mainstreaming in national institutions in the Arab region focusing on approaches and tools, including a set of manuals covering different thematic and programmatic areas. The manuals will build on existing knowledge on this issue but with added aspects that address the specificities of the Arab region, particularly in conflict, peacebuilding and transition settings;

(A1.2) Organize a technical expert group meeting to provide critical assessment and validation for the training kit. Participants will include regional and national experts with knowledge of both the specificities of the Arab region and established approaches to gender mainstreaming;

(A1.3) Organize three subregional capacity-building workshops for relevant stakeholders, including national women's machineries and concerned non-governmental organizations, to introduce and pilot the training kit. Senior representatives of women's machineries (including ministries and councils for women's affairs) will be involved. As a follow-up to the workshops, ESCWA will provide regional advisory services and technical support to member countries and relevant non-governmental organizations on the activation and implementation of plans;

(A2.1) Organize two subregional training workshops on the ESCWA toolkit entitled "Developing social protection policies using a participatory approach in the Arab region";

(A2.2) Provide technical assistance and capacity-building in three countries to support the use of the toolkit and the development of rights-based social policies and programmes that promote social protection, social cohesion, social inclusion and the provision of adequate services to all.

AG. Facilitating the implementation of the Arab Customs Union

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ($597,000)

Background

220. There has been a surge in the number of regional integration agreements and the number of countries that are party to them since the end of the Second World War. Regional integration agreements often take the form of preferential trade agreements that grant each member preferential access to the other participants' markets and that are designed to foster economic integration among member States. These agreements are also recognized as a vehicle to achieve deeper forms of integration that go beyond more traditional measures and require higher levels of policy coordination, which are more feasible at the regional level than multilaterally.

221. Against the background of surging regional integration initiatives, Arab integration has become imperative. The level of economic integration in the region, particularly in terms of trade

integration, is currently very limited. Several stages of economic integration, from less to more integrated, exist: (a) a limited preferential trade agreement; (b) a complete free-trade area; (c) a customs union; (d) a common market; (e) an economic union; (f) a monetary union; and (g) complete or full economic integration.

222. Most of the integration measures taken by Arab countries have been limited to the first two phases of economic integration. Discussions on moving from the free trade-area to a customs union were initiated many years ago but no major progress has yet been achieved, despite the commitment of Arab leaders to launch the Arab Customs Union in late 2015 under the auspices of the League of Arab States.

223. If Arab countries are to find long-term sustainable solutions that will enable them to move out of the poverty curve, diversify their economies and have greater negotiations skills, they need to build capacity to undertake research and develop technical capacities to better negotiate trade agreements, analyse impacts, identify winners and losers, evaluate and monitor implementation and ensure that both economic and social development goals will be achieved. In this respect, Arab policymakers are increasingly requesting technical assistance on trade analysis to facilitate current negotiations both among themselves and with other partners. The Arab Customs Union is the most important integration project in the region in decades, given its expected impact on member countries' economies through various channels. The new tariff schedule will change domestic prices of imported goods and thus demand for imports by consumers and supply by domestic producers of such goods. Changes in tariff rates for most-favoured-nation and regional imports, together with the change in import flows, will affect customs revenue. The aggregate effects will determine whether the formation of the Arab Customs Union has positive or negative welfare effects.

224. ESCWA has been actively involved in the efforts to date surrounding the Arab Customs Union by providing assistance in the discussion and negotiation processes. The objective of this project is to continue to develop the technical capacities of Arab experts involved in the negotiations and those responsible for the design of economic policies to adapt, implement and monitor the Arab Customs Union in the concerned countries and to understand the implications of the implementation of the Union. The project will involve both supporting multi-State discussions in negotiating the various aspects of the Union and the development of national capacities to implement the terms of the agreements.

225. Recognizing the value of focused country-level interventions, in addition to the development assistance funds requested, ESCWA expects to draw on extrabudgetary resources and funds of the regular programme of technical cooperation to provide national-level assistance to member States who may request it in follow-up to the regional workshops and advisory missions implemented as part of this project.

Objective of the Organization: To assist Arab countries and their regional organizations in the negotiation, implementation and monitoring of the Arab Customs Union	*Summary budget* (Thousands of United States dollars)
Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2016-2017: Economic and social development in Western Asia subprogramme 3 (Economic development and integration)	General temporary assistance 20.0 Consultants 55.0 Travel 150.0 Contractual services 40.0 Operating expenses 35.0 Workshops/training 297.0 **Total 597.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(EA1) Improved capacity of member States and regional organizations to negotiate and agree on the framework for the Arab Customs Union, including selecting common external tariffs	(IA1.1) 85 per cent of trained participants confirm an increased capacity to select common external tariffs
	(IA1.2) Steps are taken to select common external tariffs for imported goods
(EA2) Enhanced capacity of member States to take national-level actions required to implement, monitor and evaluate the impact of the Arab Customs Union agreements	(IA2.1) A number of target countries develop policies regarding tax collection and distribution based on materials and recommendations provided
	(IA2.2) 85 per cent of trained participants confirm an increased capacity to monitor and evaluate the impact of the Arab Customs Union agreements

Main activities

226. The main activities of the project will include:

(A1.1) Prepare training materials on techniques of selecting common external tariffs;

(A1.2) Organize three subregional workshops for member countries on techniques for selecting common external tariffs;

(A1.3) Convene one regional workshop for regional organizations on the institutional framework for the Arab Customs Union;

(A2.1) Prepare training materials on options and mechanisms to collect and distribute taxes on imports;

(A2.2) Prepare a toolkit on monitoring the Arab Customs Union;

(A2.3) Prepare training material on impact analysis tools;

(A2.4) Organize three subregional workshops for member countries on techniques of collecting and distributing revenues from taxes on imports, enabling them to evaluate how revenues can be distributed through the economy to be most productive;

(A2.5) Organize three subregional workshops for member countries on the use of the toolkit for monitoring the Arab Customs Union and the impact analysis tool at national level. The training will give member States the capacity to determine if they are complying with the Arab Customs Union;

(A2.6) Organize a workshop for regional organizations on monitoring the Arab Customs Union;

(A2.7) Organize three subregional workshops for member countries on the impact analysis toolkit, enabling them to evaluate the national impact of being a member of the Arab Customs Union;

(A2.8) Dispatch advisory missions to selected member States who request assistance to follow up on lessons learned in the training workshops. The advisory missions will support countries in developing policies and establishing the necessary systems to effectively implement the Arab Customs Union agreements and maximize the impact.

Appendix

Summary list of projects proposed for funding from the Development Account during the biennium 2016-2017

(United States dollars)

Project title		*Amount*
A.	Programme for statistics and data	10 000 000
B.	Evidence-based eGovernment policies for advancing information infrastructure, governmental service delivery and accountability (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	530 000
C.	Strategies for mitigating the impact of graduation from the least developed countries category (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	560 000
D.	Strengthening capacities of selected developing countries to assess progress towards the implementation of the sustainable development agenda in the context of the High-level political forum on Sustainable Development (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations regional commissions and United Nations country teams)	395 000
E.	Identification of domestic financial resources for sustainable development in Southern Africa (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with ECA)	525 000
F.	Monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	509 000
G.	Evidence-based policy action on youth development in Africa (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	390 000
H.	Implementation of national sustainable development strategies in selected countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA and UNDP)	596 800
I.	Trade and agricultural policies to support small-scale farmers and enhance food security (UNCTAD, in collaboration with ESCAP and ECLAC)	646 000
J.	Informal cross-border trade for empowerment of women, economic development and regional integration in the Great Lakes region (UNCTAD and ECA)	547 000
K.	Value addition of cotton by-products in Eastern and Southern Africa (UNCTAD)	591 000
L.	Development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa (UNCTAD, in collaboration with ECA)	501 000
M.	Indices for benchmarking productive capacities for evidence-based policymaking in landlocked developing countries (UNCTAD, in collaboration with ECA and ESCAP)	599 000

	Project title	*Amount*
N.	Air quality data for health and environment policies in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region (UNEP, in collaboration with WHO and UN-Habitat)	559 000
O.	Enhancing capacities to manage information from corporate sustainability reporting in Latin American countries (UNEP, in collaboration with ECLAC)	545 000
P.	Sustainable, inclusive and evidence-based national urban policies in selected Arab States (UN-Habitat, in collaboration with ESCWA)	451 000
Q.	Accountability systems for measuring, monitoring and reporting on sustainable city policies in Latin America (UN-Habitat, in collaboration with ECLAC)	453 000
R.	Evidence-based policies for improved community safety in Latin American and African cities (UNODC, in collaboration with UN-Habitat)	801 000
S.	Aligning the post-2015 agenda with planning frameworks in Africa (ECA, in collaboration with ESCAP)	726 000
T.	Accountability frameworks and evidence-based policies for development planning in Africa (ECA)	625 000
U.	Better monitoring of social protection in Africa (ECA, in cooperation with ECLAC)	550 000
V.	Accountability systems for sustainable forest management in Caucasus and Central Asian countries (ECE, in collaboration with FAO)	501 000
W.	Evidence-based policies and accountability mechanisms for sustainable housing and urban development in the Economic Commission for Europe region (ECE, in collaboration with UN-Habitat)	499 000
X.	Sustainable energy for all in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE, in collaboration with ESCAP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	564 000
Y.	Big data for measuring and fostering the digital economy in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, in collaboration with UNCTAD and the)	682 000
Z.	Addressing critical socio-environmental challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, in collaboration with ECE and UNEP)	615 000
AA.	Input-output tables for industrial and trade policies in Central and South America (ECLAC)	788 000
AB.	South-South cooperation for science, technology and innovation policies in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP, in collaboration with UNCTAD)	750 000
AC.	Innovative climate finance mechanisms for financial institutions in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP)	670 000

Project title		*Amount*
AD.	Evidence-based policies for the sustainable use of natural resources in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP in collaboration with ECLAC and DESA)	666 000
AE.	Institutional development for better service delivery towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals in Western Asia (ESCWA, in collaboration with DESA and ECLAC)	666 000
AF.	Promoting social justice in selected countries in the Arab region (ESCWA)....	301 000
AG.	Facilitating the implementation of the Arab Customs Union (ESCWA)	597 000
	Total	**28 398 800**

Annex II

Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of oversight bodies

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/68/7 (chap. II))	
The Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to provide in his next budget submission further information on the management of the Development Account, including an assessment of the adequacy of the current arrangements (para. XIII.7).	Since its inception in 1998, the Development Account has programmed 348 projects for a total amount of $192 million. During the biennium 2016-2017, 189 projects will require review and oversight by the Development Account team, which will perform the following functions: (a) 33 projects of the tenth tranche need to be programmed by reviewing project documents and helping issue allotments; the eleventh tranche needs to be launched and 45 to 50 project concept notes will need to be reviewed and the budget fascicle prepared; (b) 59 ninth-tranche and 33 tenth-tranche projects need to be actively monitored, including ongoing consultation with the implementing entities and review of year-end progress reports; and (c) 52 eighth-tranche evaluation and final reports will need to be reviewed and assessed in addition to the 32 seventh-tranche external evaluations that have not been reviewed or received yet. The day-to-day management of the Development Account is handled by a dedicated team of three programme specialists (P-5, P-4 and P-2) in the Capacity Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, whose posts were established through General Assembly resolutions 64/243 and 68/246, under section 9 of the programme budget (Economic and social affairs). Additional support is provided on an ongoing basis by senior staff in the Capacity Development Office, including on management and policy issues (Head of the Office) and budget and finance matters (Senior Finance Officer). These resources are complemented by interns who assist with data management for the intranet (and preparation of the budget fascicle). During the last biennium, the

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
	Department of Economic and Social Affairs had successfully mobilized an associate expert for two years, funded by the Associate Expert Programme through a bilateral donor. Through this position, the Capacity Development Office was able to support the work of the evaluation task team, review 68 evaluations from the first six tranches and 21 of the 66 seventh-tranche evaluations as inputs to the eighth progress report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/68/92) and issue a "quick guide on final reports". The major tasks related to evaluation for the biennium 2016-2017 will be the completion of the in-depth review of the remaining 45 evaluations of the seventh tranche, guidance on evaluations of the 52 eighth-tranche projects that are closing at the end of 2015 and the review of the 52 final reports and external evaluations. The Capacity Development Office will need to prepare the tenth progress report for the General Assembly and, most importantly, the distillation of the lessons learned for programming the eleventh tranche. The development of a knowledge management platform for programming and evaluation as well as working with the entities to ensure that the findings from the evaluations are used when programming new tranches will be another key task. The programme manager also plans to strengthen the monitoring function by providing timely, active advice to the 92 active projects of the ninth and tenth tranches.
The Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to ensure that new processes are implemented in a manner that will ensure the independence of the evaluator in order to avoid any potential conflict of interest (para. XIII.8).	The independence of the evaluation is a critical condition that is secured across all evaluations. External consultants are hired by the implementing entity's evaluation units and are responsible for autonomously conducting the evaluation and delivering the final evaluation report. All evaluations are expected to comply with the established United Nations Evaluation Group principles for evaluation of development assistance: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
The Advisory Committee expects that the complementarity between the regular programme of technical cooperation and the Development Account will continue to be ensured and further developed in order to maximize the combined impact of the activities implemented through the two mechanisms (para. V.114).	The Development Account and the regular programme of technical cooperation complement each other very well. While both have similar objectives, their programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation approaches are distinctly different. The Development Account funds medium-term interventions that are executed over a period of up to four years at primarily subregional, but also regional and global levels, targeting specific countries and focusing on their particular development needs. The regular programme of technical cooperation funds short-term, small-scale, demand-driven, specific interventions responding in a flexible manner to often urgent and not easily predictable national development needs. Many of these interventions are executed by experienced regular staff members or regional and interregional advisers funded from the regular programme of technical cooperation and assigned to various economic and social entities of the Secretariat. The regular programme of technical cooperation has a substantial general temporary assistance component which allows the organization to secure the services of sectoral and cross-sectoral development specialists, while the human resource component of the Development Account is small and does not support staff positions. Both programmes operate in the broader United Nations development system, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and aim at filling capacity development gaps in niche areas that fall outside the priorities and expertise of other development organizations.